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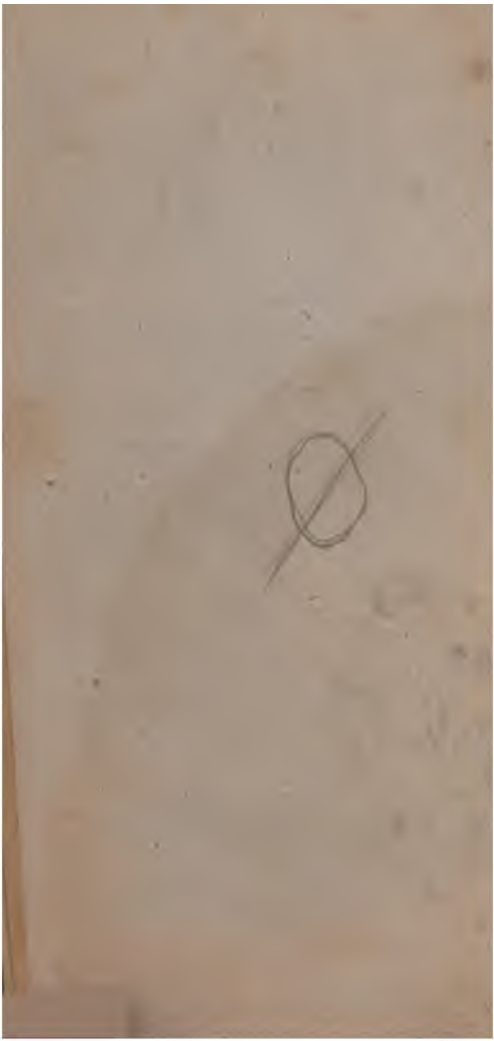

A

HISTORY OF NEW YORK,

FOR

SCHOOLS.

BY WILLIAM DUNLAP.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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PREFACE.

A FEW words respecting the origin of our present population, and the motives which induced the first emigrants to seek a home in a new world, may not be amiss as a preface to a history of New York.

The Puritans, or Pilgrims, who abandoned all that men usually hold dear, and sought a resting place in the wilderness "*for conscience' sake*," were people of property and education; and although there were among them men of high attainments and heroick character, *equality* was the distinguishing feature of the colony. They were democratick republicans. None were distinguished as the rich, or despised as the poor—none were ignorant—none were immoral. Such were the settlers from whom a great portion of the present inhabitants of this State have sprung.

The original emigrants to New Amsterdam were such as may be the boast of their descendants; and the second race that flowed in upon and mixed with them, were at least their equals. In 1609 Henry Hudson saw the Highlands of Navesink. In 1614, Adrian Block and Hendrick Christianse landed the first Dutch colonists on this shore. In 1620, the Mayflower arrived at Plymouth Rock. Of those who arrived in her, a poet has said,

> Amidst the storm they sang:
> And the stars heard, and the sea!
> And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang
> To the anthem of the free!

Yes! "amidst the storm they sang" the praises of their Creator—Amidst the howlings of the wilderness and the yells of the savage, they forgot not that the only sure foundation for a republick is *education.* In ten years from the landing of the Pilgrims, they established the university of Cambridge.

Thus we see, that *however honourable* the descendants of the Dutch colonists of *New* Amsterdam may, and ought, to esteem

their origin, the progeny of the New England settlers, who now form so *great a part of our city's population*, may claim as high and pure a source. Neither must we forget another race, *as pure*, in the persecuted protestants of France, many of whom sought and found a resting place here, adding to the brightest intellectual light of the country.

It is not our part to forget, but to *forgive*. And while we remember the injuries inflicted and attempted by the government of Great Britain, let us bear in mind the many, *many* blessings, we owe to England and Englishmen. The first press that came to the Colonies was sent from England—the first printer that came hither was an Englishman;—the sentiments of republicanism we now feel are from England;—we owe to *her* literature, law, religion —not to her government, but to her poets, philosophers, statesmen, and divines. To enumerate the good derived from England, would require pages; but I must mention *one* that is beyond all price—*language*. Our language is that of Shakspeare and Milton;—while those who are not familiarized to the idiom of

these great men from infancy, are blind to their beauties, to us they are as "household words," ever in our mouths and in our hearts.

If these little books should render the history of the State of New York more familiar to the generations who are to follow me, and whose duty it will be to support her honour and increase her prosperity, my end will be attained.

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

Henry Hudson sees the Navesink hills, p. 10—John Colman killed, p. 11—Rum and tobacco, p. 12—Hudson's River, p. 13—Hudson betrayed by Green, and turned adrift to perish in the Northern Ocean, p. 17.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival of Block and Christiaense—Helle-gaat, p. 18—Commencement of New York and Albany; first fort on Manhattan Island, p. 19—Second Fort, p. 20—Peter Minuit, p. 21—Dutch houses, p. 22—Wouter Van Twiller, p. 23—Governor Kieft, p. 24—Huys van goede hope, p. 24—Peter Stuyvesant, p. 25—Surrender to the English, p. 25—Charles II, and Duke of York, p. 26—Nichols, Lovelace, Andros, Dongan, p. 26—First representative assembly, p. 28.

CHAPTER III.

James II. William III.—Jacob Leisler, p. 29—Sloughter; Leisler executed as a rebel, p. 31—Fletcher governor, p. 32—Col. Peter Schuyler, p. 33—First printing press in New York—William Bradford, p. 34—Printers and newspapers, p. 37.

CHAPTER IV.

Lord Bellamont, p. 38—Size of New York, p. 38—Kidd the pirate, p. 40—Lieutenant-governor Nanfan, p. 43—Lords Cornbury and Lovelace, Mr. Ingoldsby, p. 43—Governors Hunter and Burnet, p. 45—American congresses, p. 46—Montgomerie, Vandam, Cosby, p. 47—Lord Augustus Fitzroy and his wedding, p. 48—Clarke, p. 49—Crimes, slaves, redemptioners, and convicts, p. 51—A story, p. 53.

CHAPTER V.

The Negro plot—Stadt Huys or City Hall at Coenties Slip, p. 57—A new City Hall in Wall Street, p. 58—More of the Negro plot, p. 61—John Ury, p. 63—Campbell and Highlanders, p. 66—Burning of Schenectady, p. 72.

CHAPTER VI.

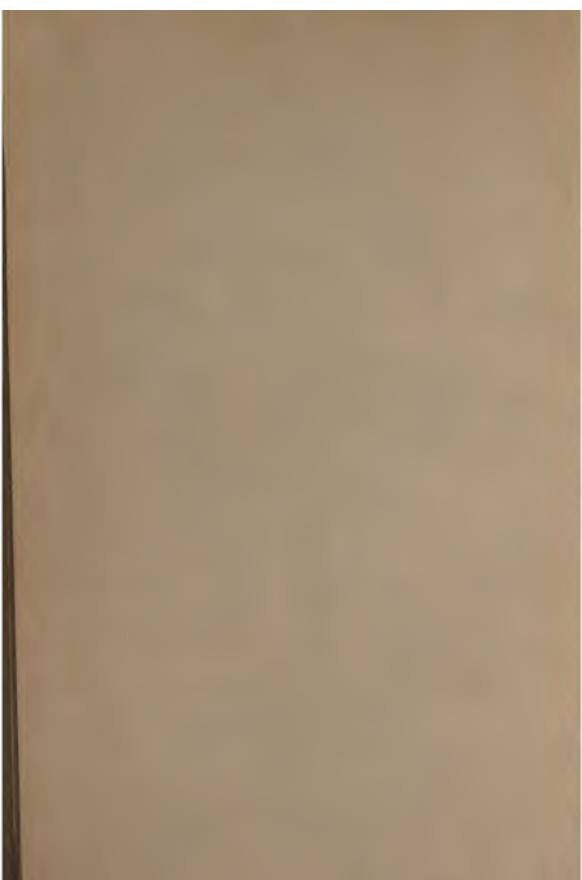
Governor Clinton, p. 73—Sir Danvers Osborne, p. 75—Mr. Delancey, p. 76—Sir Charles Hardy, p. 76—Story of Sarah Wilson and Tom Bell, p. 88.

CHAPTER VII.

Great designs of the French, p. 90—Lord Chatham's opinion of men fit for governors of the Colonies, p. 90—Cadwallader Colden and Wentworth, p. 91—Robert Monckton, p. 92—Story of Indian warfare, p. 94—Blessings derived from England, p. 95.

CHAPTER VIII.

Flatlenbarick hill, p. 97—Captain Isaac Sears, p. 100—Cause of the war of 1775—Custom-house officers, p. 103—Captains of English armed ships made custom-house officers, p. 103—Smugglers and informers, p. 103—Tarring and feathering, p. 105—Murder of a female, by an English man-of-war firing into Mr. Ricket's pleasure boat, 105—Impressment, p. 110—Death of Lieutenant Panton, p.



HISTORY OF NEW YORK,

FOR SCHOOLS.

CHAPTER I.

The interlocutors are three boys: John, aged 14; *William, aged* 12; *Philip, aged* 10; *one girl, Mary, aged* 8; *and their Uncle, aged* 71.

William. Now, that Uncle Philip has gone away, will not you tell us the history of New York during the war? You know he only told us how the quarrel began between America and England, and the *most* curious things must have happened after *that.* Now, do you tell us, Uncle; you are older than Uncle Philip, and ought to know more.

Uncle. That does not follow, my boy; Uncle Philip knows by reading. A man can know but little who does not read: he has read more than I have.

Mary. But you have seen all the people he told us about.

Un. Oh, no, child. Do you suppose that I saw Henry Hudson?

John. Hush, Mary. You should remember dates; Uncle Thomas told us he is 71 years old; and, of course, he can only remember what passed 50 or 60 years ago.

Phil. Uncle might remember many things that Uncle Philip could only know from hearsay, or reading of them.

Mary. I am 8 years last June, and I remember a long, long time.

Mar. [illegible]
that [illegible]

Un. [illegible]
John [illegible]
[illegible]

Jon. [illegible]
next [illegible]
State Island [illegible]

Phi. [illegible]
John [illegible]

Un. [illegible]
boat that [illegible]
attacked [illegible]
[illegible]
they discharge [illegible]
sharp flint stone [illegible]
the throat [illegible]

Phi. [illegible]
Had they [illegible]

Un. Yes [illegible]
things without [illegible]
applying [illegible]

Mar. [illegible]
of July

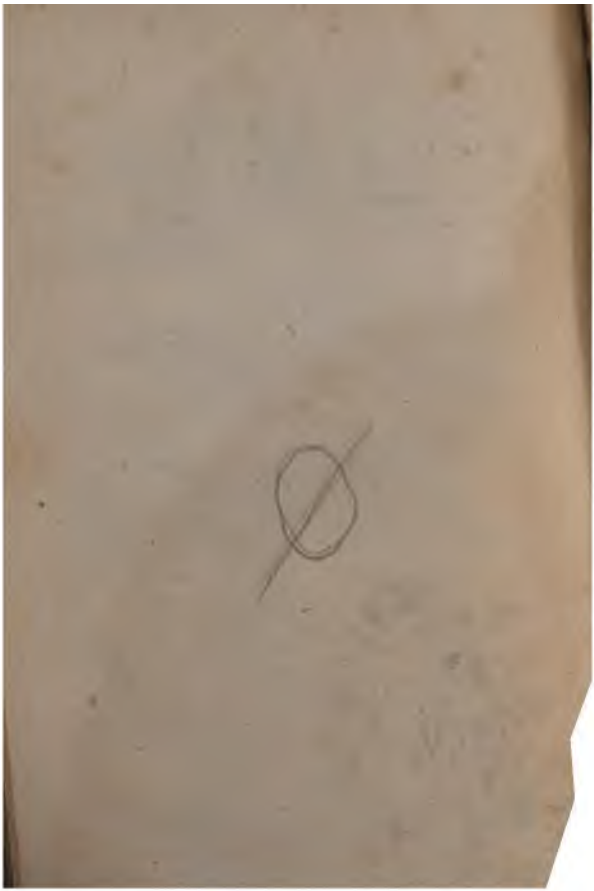
Un. Yes [illegible]
was rainy [illegible]
come [illegible]
and got back [illegible]
rying poor [illegible]
the map [illegible]
off Long Island

John. Yes [illegible]

Un. We [illegible]
the place [illegible]

Phi. [illegible]

Un. We [illegible]
their names [illegible]



[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

in London; had spent all his property, and so disgusted his friends and relatives, that they turned him away as a worthless vagabond. He pretended repentance, and by his art gained the good will of Hudson, who took him to his house, and gave him employment, and, when he sailed, took him along as his clerk or bookkeeper. Green proved both a hypocrite and a reprobate. He gained Hudson's favour, and ill used the officers and men of the ship. The Captain's partiality created great dissatisfaction among the mariners, which was increased by the hardships they underwent among the ice and snow of the polar regions, and was brought to a mutiny by the failure of their provisions and the arts of Green.

Wm. I remember that Green was the ringleader in the mutiny, as Uncle Philip told us; but how could he be so, if he quarrelled with the sailors and was a favourite with the Captain.

Un. He was an unworthy favourite, a man of evil habits, in a word, children, he was *selfish;* and the selfish are ready to destroy others for the gratification of their own ambition or vanity. Such are the great heroes and conquerors you read of, who, to accomplish their schemes, sacrifice the friends they mislead, the dependants who look to them for support, and the peaceful inhabitants of foreign countries; who are denominated enemies, or hereticks, or infidels, or by any name that can deceive the soldiers who are led on to murder their fellow men: such have been all the great conquerors of the earth.

Mary. Uncle, I don't understand you.

Un. My feelings have made me forget that my auditors are children.

Wm. I think I understand.

John. I know I do; for I have read of Alexander

and Cesar; but I never thought of the miseries you speak of: then, Bonaparte—ah! I remember now what I read of the wounded men at Leipsic—and the poor soldiers in Russia; thousands on thousands freezing and dying.

Phil. But Washington was a conqueror, and I am sure he was good.

Un, He was victorious in defence of his country; in repelling those who, if successful, would have been conquerors. The conquering hero is one who carries blood and devastation over other countries than his own; the victorious patriot defends the property, lives, and liberties of his countrymen. But we have left poor Henry Hudson in the ice, surrounded by mutinous, half-starved sailors, and exposed to the arts of the selfish Henry Green. This man became the enemy of Hudson apparently for a very trifling cause. The gunner of the ship died; and, as is customary, his clothing was sold by auction, that the sailors might buy what they wanted, and the money be kept for the heirs of the deceased. Green coveted a particular garment; but Hudson justly sold it to the highest bidder, a man who chose to give more than Green. This was the ostensible cause of Green's enmity to his benefactor; but the real cause was the wicked disposition he had acquired while a debauched spendthrift in London. It is in vain that you give to the selfish: they require all; if you refuse the last thing coveted by the selfish man, you make an enemy of him, because he seeks his own gratification, rather than the welfare of his fellow. I have dwelt upon this, my children, because I shall show you in the history of New York, and could point out in all other history, just such men as Henry Green, seeking their own gratification at the expense of others.

John. I shall remember, sir; and when you speak

of a selfish man, I shall think of Green. But Green destroyed Hudson, the man to whom he owed so much.

Phil. And to whom we owe New York.

Mary. And Hudson's river.

Un. The wicked do not always prevail to the destruction of the good; and when they do, they do not gain happiness for themselves, though their prosperity may flatter them for a time. Green, like many selfish men, could make himself agreeable by pretending to act for the good of others, and by flattering personal attentions to those he wished to gain. Green finding Hudson's ship in difficulty, surrounded by ice, provisions short, and the Captain still bent on pursuing his voyage for the benefit of his employers, paid his court to the sailors, and soon persuaded them that he was their friend, and that Hudson, for his own private views, kept them in these inhospitable seas, where their lives were in constant jeopardy. He told them that only fourteen days' provisions remained, and that they must take command of the ship and seek their safety, or starve; that by getting rid of Hudson, and some others, particularly the sick men, they would increase the share of provisions and the chance of escape; that the Captain had concealed bread and other necessaries in his cabin, for his own private use, while they were starving; that self-preservation was the first law of nature, and to save themselves they must turn the Captain and the sick men adrift in the shallop.

Mary. Uncle, how do you know that he said all this?

Un. Well asked, my little girl. Like other historians, I make my personages speak my own language. But the substance of this is recorded by one who was of the crew, and witnessed the transaction.

south England, were wasted by famine a
ing to mere skeletons; but he did not know
the scoundrels were hanged or not. Poor
that was the last we know of him.

CHAPTER II.

Un. Now, John, tell me what happen
sequence of Hudson's discovery of New
John. Why, sir, the Dutch finding that
got furs nearer than the East Indies, se
other ship to New York to trade with the
and in 1614, the Dutch government enc
company of merchants, and licensed the
West India Company, and they sent out
commanded by Adrian Block and Hendr
Tienne. Block came first, and he sail
the Hudson and the East river, and call
Helle-goat river.

Phil. That is, Hell-gate.

Un. I must tell you, children, this nam
only given by writers. Some say *Hur*
gate, from the boiling of the water at a c
of tide; some *Hell-gate*, because of the
getting on the rocks.

Mary. And what do you call it, Uncle

Un. I am willing to let the popular
name stand, *Hell-gate:* though I believ
Dutch, when they entered the beautiful
tween New York Island and Long Island
the *Helder* or *Helle-goat*, which is the b
sage or strait. And so says Judge Ben
Memoir.

Phil. Push on, John; I want to come
Uncle Philip left off.

Un. You will remember, children, that Block sailed through the sound, and joined Christiansee to the eastward; that they discovered many places, and returned to our bay and river. Did they then settle New York?

John. O no, sir. They went up the Hudson and built a fort on Castle Island, just below Albany; and here Christiansee remained to trade. And trade, sir, appears to have been the object of all the discoverers; for when, in 1615, they made a fort on Manhattan Island, and erected some few huts or houses, they only intended to trade with the Indians.

Un. True, boy; the desire for wealth, the thirst for gold, has led men to the discovery and settlement of empires; and thus it is, that although the motive for action may be sordid, or worse, Providence works out good from evil. I do not mean that trading is evil. New York was begun by traders, and it now flourishes by trade; but what a difference! Then, a stockade fort, or a stone wall, a few huts, a single ship, (to which an Albany sloop is a floating palace,) beads and shells for money, and otter skins and green tobacco for merchandise. Now, thousands of palaces, and thousands of vessels, whose long-boats might vie with the half-decked shallop of Columbus, banks, mints, bills of credit, and specie; with the manufactures of both hemispheres as the articles of commerce! But, my boy, where was the first Dutch fort?

John. Uncle Philip said above the Bowling Green. I don't know where.

Un. I think it was behind Trinity church. The water, then, came up to the site of Lombard street; and the bank of the river was where now the west wall of the churchyard is. In the year 1751, some *workmen digging* on the bank, back of Trinity *church, discovered* a stone wall, which occasion

great wonder; for already the first fort and its site was forgotten. It has been objected, that the early traders would only have a pallisade, or a wooden wall; but though brick were long after brought from Holland, Manhattan Island furnished plenty of stones; and a stone fort or battery was easily made. Go on.

John. In 1621, the Dutch government gave the New Netherlands (that is, New York and all their possessions hereabout) to their West India Company; and in 1623, Capt. Mey was sent out, and found the people who had been left here by the traders almost starving; but as he came to make a settlement, or found a colony, he brought all necessary supplies with him. New Netherlands extended, according to the Dutch, from Delaware river to Cape Cod. See here on the map, Philip.

Phil. I see Cape May, and Uncle Philip said that was meant for his name.

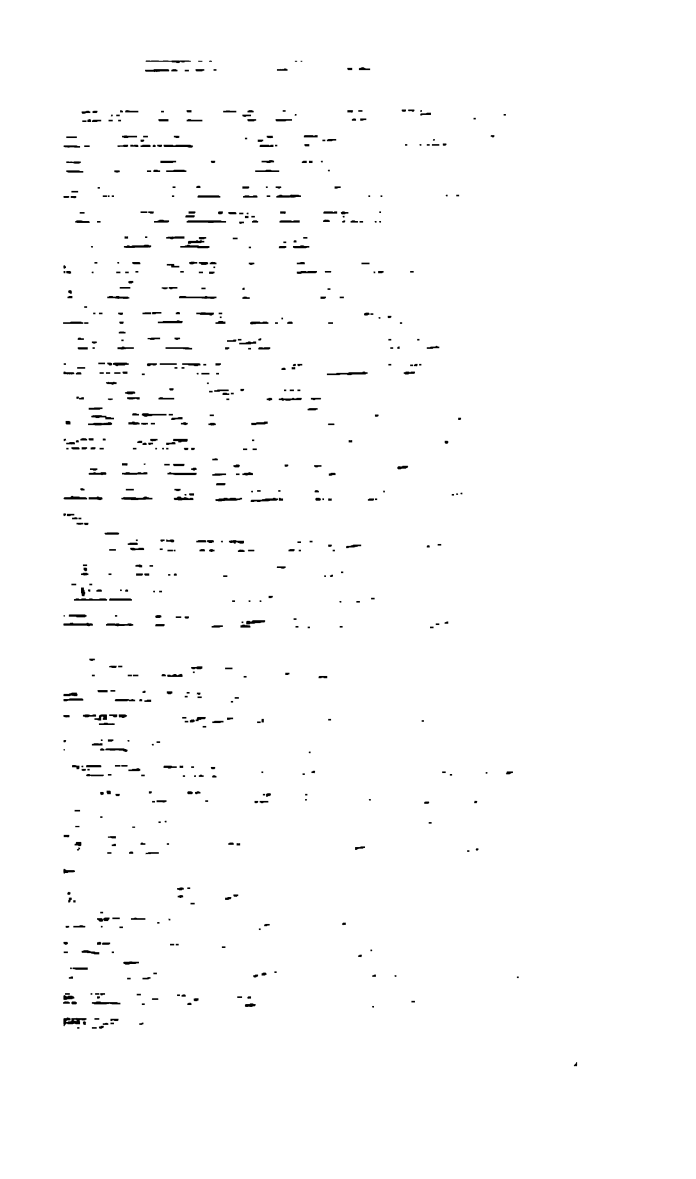
Un. You remember that this year, 1623, the Dutch built two other forts, and more houses, which may be considered as the commencement of both New York and Albany; but the places were called after the forts: the one on our island, Amsterdam; and that, near the place where Albany now stands, was fort Orange.

Mary. And the new fort was where the beautiful battery now is.

Un. No. Where we now can walk and view the bay, the islands, and the shipping, was one field of rock, or water; the rocks were covered, in part, at flood tide, but bare and black when the water ebbed; so I remember it for many years.

Phil. Why is it called the Battery?

Un. Because, many years ago, a battery was built on the Copsey rocks, as they were called; which fortification was almost as far from the outer walls



Wm. What a strange looking building! It stan
end foremost.

Un. It is certainly very unlike the five sto
houses that have taken its place. Go on, John.

John. In 1629, the Dutch government gave cha
ers to several persons, and grants and privileges
plant colonies. These men sent out Wouter V
Twiller to purchase lands for them, as their age

and each became what is called a patroon; but none are left now, except Mr. Van Rensselaer, whose land was purchased near Albany. In 1683, Peter Minuit returned home, and Wouter Van Twiller, who had been agent for the patroons, arrived as governor.

Un. In the mean time, you know, colonization had been going on in Canada by the French; and the English had settled both north and south of our Dutch progenitors: of this we will talk and read another day; but I must mention one arrival on the continent, and one man who led the way to great events.

Phil. I don't remember any great general, sir.

Un. This man brought with him an art, sometimes called the black art—an art that has revolutionized the world.

John. I don't remember, sir.

Un. In the year 1530, Samuel Green arrived at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and brought with him this wonderful art, and his implements of power. He was a printer, boy, and his press was the first in North America.

Phil. I wish that New York had had that honour.

Un. We must praise, and not be jealous of our neighbours. We should love our neighbours as ourselves. Well, John, what did Governor Van Twiller do?

John. He built the first church in New Amsterdam, and encouraged the people to build houses, which they did close under the fort, mostly in that part of Pearl street adjoining the Battery, at present.

Un. Yes; I do remember when the fort, on its mound, overhung the houses in Pearl street.

John. In the mean time, the Dutch settled the south end of Long Island, by degrees, and some o'

them, called Walloons, fixed ther
Brooklyn; and, it is said, from th
name of Wallabout, where the Navy
Governor Kieft came next, in 163
troubles enough with the English, an
dians.

Un. You hold in mind, children, t
claimed as their own all the country
cut river on the east, to the Delawar
west; and as the English claimed not
try on each side, but the whole of th
Netherlands, quarrels were likely to
Dutch had their fort or trading house o
river, where Hartford stands, and calle
goede hope: the *house of good hope.*
were too many for the Dutch, and en
in Connecticut and on Long Island, un
marcation was agreed upon: and to t
was the same, until finally the whol
see, was yielded to the English.

John. And Governor Kieft had hi
with the Indians.

Un. Yes; and as you may rememb
a hard battle with them, and could
the victory. Well, what governor of
director of the traders, came next?

John. Governor Peter Stuyvesant; a
last Dutch governor, and his family a

Un. You have a memorandum of
which the governors began to rule N

John. Yes, sir. He came in 164
erned New Netherlands till 1664.
Philip told us he had trouble with the
claimed the country to the south on
river, and because they had seized t
Cassimir where Newcastle is now; a
or Stuyvesant finding that a Swedish s

to the Raritan river, (here, by Amboy,) he seized her, and then went and retook fort Cassimir.

Wm. That was right. Well done Governor Stuyvesant.

Un. Did the brave old governor remain master of all this country?

John. No, sir; for Charles the Second, of England, claimed all this territory; and England being very powerful, she took the whole.

Un. You, John, have been reading the History of England.

John. Yes, sir; and I think Charles was a very scandalous man.

Un. You say England was very powerful in his reign.

John. Ay; but not by his means. I think he proved unworthy of being a king, for he was so fond of indulging himself, that he became a pensioner to the king of France;—no, sir, the power of England was owing to the wisdom and courage of Oliver Cromwell, as I think.

Un. So I think, too. Well, Charles took all this country from the Dutch: and what did he do with it?

John. He gave it to his brother, the Duke of York; and a fleet came out here, too strong for Governor Stuyvesant, and he was obliged to give up the place: but he made a good capitulation, and he and most of the Dutch people staid under the English government.

Un. The names of the country, and the towns, and the forts, were changed.

John. Yes, sir. The Duke named every thing almost after himself. New Amsterdam became New York, and the fort was called James; and as he had the titles of Albany and Ulster, as well as York, he called fort Orange (the Dutch trading

house up the river) Albany, and one of the
of the colony Ulster.

Mary. But is that any harm, Uncle?

Un. No, not much, my dear. A gre
than any king has said, "A rose by a
would smell as sweet;" and Albany, or Ne
or Ulster, do not now partake of the in
Charles the Second, or his brother James
John, what next?

John. Nichols governed New York
years, and then Col. Francis Lovelace s
him, as English governor, and he ruled fi
to 1673; and then England and Holland
war, a Dutch fleet came here, and while
at Staten Island, John Manning sent the
nage that he was governor of the fort, an
give it up to them; I suppose, for a good rea
and so they came up, and Manning gave
fort, and they had the town again; and th
Anthony Colve for governor: but next ye
England and Holland made a peace, by w
Dutch gave up New York, and Sir Edm
dros came out as governor, and he disgrac
ning and broke his sword over his head.

Wm. That must have broke his head, too

Un. O no. The sword was held over
and broke; not broke on his head.

Wm. Well, I wish it had been! the sco

Un. Well, John, you know Sir Edmund
was sent to be governor of Massachusett
succeeded him here in New York?

John. Col. Thomas Dongan, sir. He s
1683, and as the people complained that
no part in making laws for the colony,
upon them to send representatives to a ge
sembly; and so the people had a voice, as it
in making laws for themselves, as it ought

a man to take care of his province *for him*
that man chose his friends as magistrates,
council, and his business was to make as
money for himself as he could, without inc
the displeasure of his master. Now, whe
time Dongan came out, the people had b
strong enough, as well as wise enough, to fi
all was not right; so to satisfy them, he in
the representative assembly: but *that*, as you
was only one part in three; and, until the r
tion, the governors and their council may b
sidered as the creatures of a foreign country
ing upon the people as inferior beings, to be m
for the gratification and the interest of the
and those who commissioned them. But,
grew, the people's representatives grew st
and bolder; and the people saw that they we
sidered only as the property of England,
nursed or oppressed at the will of foreigners
the *one house*, or house of assembly, oppos
other *two*, and, finally, came on those times
to talk about, by and by.

Wm. Well, go ahead, John. I want to c
the time when the people would not be ru
foreigners, and would do as they pleased.
what I like.

Un. But you are not wise enough, and ha
learned enough, to be trusted to do as you
And so it was, and is, with the people. Y
willing to let me direct you, and sometimes
you,—and so the people chose, and conti
choose, men to make laws, which they submi
their own good. Now, John, let us proceed
not till to-morrow. We will now go to brea

company were attached to him. He took the o portunity of Dongan's resigning the governme to Mr. Nicholson, the lieutenant-governor, a when he had embarked for England, Leisler ent ed the fort with his militia, and took it by surpri The whole town then declared for William t Third, and Leisler was considered and acted governor. But as he was a man of low origin, in t estimation of the gentry, as they were called, (that those families who had been counsellors, or of t king's council, and the officers, civil and milita sent out from England,) all these people were posed to Leisler, and refused to sign a declarati proposed by him in favour of the Prince of Oran However, notwithstanding the lieutenant-governo threats, and the influence of the English office the people prevailed.

John. Why, Uncle, this was like democrats a aristocrats.

Un. Right, John; and we shall find that the few, or the aristocracy, and the many, or the people, were from this time forward in opposition to each other; but the few were supported by the power of England; and even Leisler was put down by the English court, although he had seconded their views in displacing James, and proclaiming William.

Wm. That was strange.

Un. No: for Leisler had acted against royal authority, and the aristocracy of England might fear to lose their profitable pickings in the colonies, if the people, or their leaders, were suffered to rule. You must know, and will see as you go on, that the offices of governor, lieutenant-governor, counsellor, judge, chief-justice, collector of the customs, and other profitable places, were given by the kings, or the ministers of England, to their relations, or favourites, or others whom they wanted to pay for

services; or whose importunities they wished to get rid of, without touching their own purses. If sent to the colonies, they might get as much as they could from the provincials, provided they obeyed those who sent them.

John. Poor colonists. I remember, sir, that Leisler sent one *Stoll* with a letter to King William, but Nicholson, and a clergyman in his interest, got to England first, and *Stoll* was sent back with thanks, but no appointment for Leisler; and his enemies, the great people, went up to Albany, and declared for King William, but against Leisler; and he had to go up there, and take that fort by force.

Un. No; he sent his son-in-law, Milborne, who after some difficulty succeeded. But you recollect there were many troubles about this time, and the Indians and French burnt Schenectady, and murdered many people; and in the midst of these commotions, Governor *Sloughter* was sent out from England, in 1691, and he made Leisler and Milborne prisoners, and brought them to a mock trial, for the judges referred the matter to the governor and his council, who, of course, condemned them; but Sloughter was afraid to execute him, although he had, by calling an assembly, so [illegible]d the people, or gained their representatives, that they abandoned Leisler, and asked for his death. The enemies of Leisler are said to have obtained an order for hanging him while Sloughter was intoxicated, at a feast given him, previous to his going on a voyage to Albany.

Mary. A governor intoxicated, Uncle! I thought only blackguards did so.

Un. Drunkenness is *now*, my dear, considered by all people who have just sentiments of religion, or *even* worldly honour, as a low and despicable, as *well as destructive* vice;—it was not always so.

governor, appointed by the king of Great Br
signed a death warrant when drunk, which he d
not sign when in his senses. Leisler and his
in-law were hanged like murderers, and their
perty seized for the government.

Wm. And the people suffered them to be han
If I was a man!—

Un. The people have often suffered their fri
to be persecuted by their enemies; but, at this
the people feared the power of England, and
saw that Leisler had been abandoned by Wil
the Third, in whose cause he had risked his li

John. But the English government afterwar
dered the estates of Leisler and Milbourne to b
stored; and the people had their bodies take
and buried with great ceremony in the old D
church in Garden street.

Un. True, John; and the street has lost its n
and the church is demolished, and the bone
Leisler have been thrown into the highway. S
are the revolutions of opinion, and of churches
ties, and states.

John. And Sloughter died very suddenly,
was buried in old Governor Stuyvesant's vau
St. Mark's church, near good Peter Stuyvesant
think he did not deserve the honour. Our next
ernor's name was Fletcher; he came in 1692.

Un. True. What do you remember of him

John. That his name was Benjamin. He w
military man, and brought over a supply of arm
the province. He had heard that he should h
trouble with the Indians; and he had also h
that Col. Peter Schuyler knew how to manage th
better than anybody else, and so he applied to
for advice and assistance.

Mary. I remember, the Indians had a fu

ne for him: they called him [illegible] because
y couldn't say Peter

Un. Col. Schuyler was a friend to the Five Na-
ns; and they were wise enough to be guided by
n. He repulsed the Canadians and French in a
pedition which they undertook against the Indian-
d Fletcher went from New York [illegible] the
istance of Schuyler and the Five Nations. But
oyage from New York in those day was almost
arduous and tedious as crossing the Atlantic
w.

John. Thanks to poor Mr. Fulton (though he
led,) and to Chancellor Livingston and above
, to Mr. Fulton, we now go there in a few hours
was well for the Indians that [illegible] Schuyler [illegible]
near them. Well, sir, I believe Governor Fletcher
did not do much for New York

Un. No, my son, he did worse than nothing—he
wrong. He quarrelled with the representative
the people, and, of course, became unpopular
consulted his own mercenary view. The
ldren, was the natural consequence of the gov-
nor being a stranger with interest [illegible] own
d of those who sent him, [illegible] offered
m, but at variance with the interest of the peo-
he was sent to rule over. Fletcher was governor
il 1697, at which time the war with the French
sed, by what is called the Treaty of Ryswick
ause made in a Dutch town of that name. Du-
g Fletcher's rule, several things of importance
opened. The Dutch church in [illegible] street
s built; that street which you know [illegible]
ice, and which, with the church [illegible] the
er day, in the great fire of December [illegible]
first Trinity church was built [illegible]
of the same name now stands [illegible]
first printing press was [illegible] New York

and the man's name who brought it here, and di rected it, is more worthy of remembrance than tha of a conqueror of armies and overthrower of empires

Wm. Who was it, sir?

Un. William Bradford. He had exercised hi art in Philadelphia, a place which, though not a old as our city, had the honour of possessing thi wonderful machine before New York.

John. But why did they not keep it?

Un. Bradford got himself into trouble by print ing a pamphlet, which was in opposition to th wishes of the people; and he fled to New York t avoid a lawsuit, or its consequences, and thus h was the first printer in both cities.

Wm. And had the people of Philadelphia no body to print a newspaper for them?

Un. My good boy, the people of Philadelphi and New York had no newspapers then. Bosto was the first town of our country that had a news paper. It was printed once a week, and its size wa not much more than my two hands put together.

Wm. And now we have papers almost as big a tablecloths, and twenty of them every day.

Un. It must be difficult for you, my children, t keep in mind what New York was at the time o which we are speaking, because you are accustome to see it in its present improved and enlarged state But I would have you remember, that at the peac of Ryswick, of which we have just spoken, that i in 1697, the city only contained about 4300 inhabi ants, and now 300,000; that of these 4300, a thir perhaps were slaves, and could not read, as wa likewise the case with many who thought them selves free; and that now scarce a person can b found, born in America, but can and does read *You must* remember that we are now speaking *little* town that was all within a palisaded f

chase of soil from the Indians. In 1689, Brad printed a pamphlet, which was the first book pri in Pennsylvania; and, unhappily, it was an offen controversial affair, written by George Keith, ten of the first school established in the province; as Keith undertook to teach the Quakers, who employed him to teach their children, it caus quarrel, in which Bradford was involved, an we have seen, forced to fly to New York.

Wm. And then the New York people had n papers!

Un. O no. There was yet no newspaper pri anywhere in the colonies. But in 1704, Barth mew Greene, the son of the Samuel Greene we l seen printing at Cambridge, established a we paper in Boston, and called it the "News Lette

John. I should like to see the first newsp printed in America.

Wm. So should I.

Un. You may see one impression by applyin Mr. Forbes, the librarian of the City Library. will all go and look at it.

John. Yes, sir. On what day of the year w printed, sir?

Un. Mr. Thomas says the 24th of April; but will see that the first number was printed on 17th of April, 1704. It is on a half sheet of Mr. Thomas calls "pot paper," a little affair, of pages; but it grew larger, like you, as it grew er, and it lived till 1776. In 1719, another n paper was printed in Boston, called the "Boston zette;" and about the same time, Andrew Bradf the son of William, established the first newsp in Philadelphia, and called it the "American W ly Mercury."

Wm. And none yet in New York?

Un. Not yet. The next newspaper was es

ished in Boston, in 1721—*three* before our folks had *one*—this was called the "New England Courant," and was printed by Franklin.

Wm. Yes! Benjamin!

Un. No; his elder brother, James, to whom Benjamin was an apprentice. Four years after this William Bradford, our old friend, began to publish a newspaper in New York, in 1725.

Wm. At last. Well, I don't care, we have enough of them now.

Un. Perhaps too many. And yet that can hardly be, if conducted by honest men.

Wm. Was this New York paper printed every day, sir?

Un. No; only once a week. It was called "The New York Gazette." As to a daily paper there was not one printed in New York until after the Revolution—and that reminds me, children, that it is about the revolutionary war that I was to tell you, and we are lagging sadly by the way.

John. Not sadly, sir. And I am sure I shall understand the better what you are going to tell us for what you have been so good as to say to us. Shall I proceed with my recollections and memorandums of the history of our city, sir?

Un. Let us now walk to the Library and look at the first newspaper printed in our country. It is always best to examine a subject at the time when our minds are interested in it. To-morrow we will resume our history.

CHAPTER IV

Un. Now go on, John. Who succeeded Governor *Fletcher*?

John. Lord Bellamont. Richard, Earl of mont.

Un. Did any remarkable person come with

John. Yes; he brought out his lieutenant-g or. I suppose, sir, he was afraid to trust a p cial.

Un. I see, boy, you understand me. He b out John Nanfan as his lieutenant-governor, less that his Majesty's Council might be the loyal, subservient, and profitable. What d remember of Lord Bellamont?

John. He apprehended Kidd, the pirate.

Un. Before we go into the story of Kidd, mention some things that appertain to this tim to New York. When the city had grown so gr to burst the bounds of the palisaded wall, (whic situated where Wall street is now built,) the b began to be erected over a marsh, on the East side, from the Half Moon, a little fort at the ter tion of the palisades, to the site of the present F market. This marsh was bounded on the west b high ground of Golden Hill, and was called the being an abbreviation of valley; and from its c it was denominated *Smees Vly*, soon changed b English into "Smith's Fly." Now, during Bellamont's government, the *Magde Pad* "Maiden Lane," which commenced on the ground, or "at the Broadway," was cont through the *Vly*, and a "slip" formed, whic called the "Countess's Slip," in compliment governor's lady, the Countess of Bellamont. this slip, was afterward placed the Fly Market. must remember, too, in connexion with this p of our history, some circumstances which enced the feelings and opinions of the people and for years before, and after. Our highly d *guished fellow*-citizen, Gulian Cromline Verp

(a name that appears in the early records of New York with honour) has truly remarked, that it was between 1682 and 1688 that William Penn established a refuge for the oppressed in Pennsylvania, and Louis the Fourteenth (Penn's contrast in all things) drove 300,000 protestant families from France, many of whom took refuge in New York, "and brought with them a most valuable accession of intelligence, knowledge, and enterprise."

John. We cannot wonder that the people of that time had a dread of the influence of popery.

Wm. Where was Golden Hill, sir?

Un. The *Gouden Bergh*, as the Dutch called it, is now only remembered by Gold street; but "Cliff street" retains the name of *Dirk Van der Cliff;* and "John street," a part of which was called "Golden Hill," has still its original denomination, derived from *John Harpendingh*, who gave to the Dutch congregation the ground on which the North church is built, and whose escutcheon is there preserved. Now, John, what of Kidd the pirate?

John. Lord Bellamont with certain others fitted out a vessel in England to take the pirates of New York, and they ordered Captain Kidd to do it.

Un. The intention of equipping this vessel was not to seek pirates in New York alone, but to suppress piracy in the East Indies and elsewhere; and Col. Livingston, of New York, being in England, recommended William Kidd, as a good and bold seaman; consequently, a fine ship was fitted out in England, and Kidd came here to get his full complement of men. He then sailed to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, and instead of putting down the sea robbers, turned pirate himself. He returned to America, was supposed to be very rich, and was seized at Boston by Lord Bellamont, and sent with seven of his crew to England, where the

ere tried, condemned, and hanged. As he *did* se his treasures to save his life, it was suppos hat he buried them in America, and the wh coast, with the islands, and even many parts of interior, have been dug for Kidd's money, by tho who were too idle to dig for potatoes.

John. But they found none, sir.

Un. It is strange that men should rather labou in hope of hidden treasure, than with the certaint of the reward which agricultural industry ensure Yet it is said that a pot containing 1800 dollar in Spanish pieces of eight, was found upon the plac called Martha's Vineyard, not two years ago, by person who was ploughing his cornfield. Kidd i supposed to have frequented all the coast and bays a you enter Long Island Sound from the east. Tra dition says, that "Sachem's head" and the Thimbl islands were his favourite haunts; places at tha time little known.

Wm. Where is Sachem's head, sir? I suppos it was called by that name in memory of some I dian king.

Un. It was; and perhaps from some fanciful semblance to the head of an Indian chief. It i rocky peninsula, jutting from Long Island into Sound, near the town of Guilford. Stories of Ki his piracies, murders, and treasures, abound in region; and many believe that "lots of gold" h been found, and may yet be found, about Sach head and the Thimble islands. These rocky i are in the Sound, and near the above named p sula. One of them is called Kidd's Island; t the largest of the group; and here is a cave, w it is said, the pirates used to sleep. This pl now visited by the curious, who look upon t tials, R. K., which are cut on the face of th *within the* cave, as undoubted testimonials t

was the private hiding place, and the letters the sign manual of Robert Kidd.

John. But, sir, this pirate's name was William.

Un. Ah, that's unfortunate: for I think it would be hard to make R stand for William. However, there are two ways of getting over that difficulty: one is by asserting that there were two brothers, and both pirates; and the other, that the noted Kidd sometimes called himself William and sometimes Robert—that he lived *Robert*, and was hanged at Execution Dock as *William*. But there are other testimonials in this wonderful cave, proving that it was the resort of this famous robber. A hole in the rocky floor of the place is supposed to have been chiselled out with great labour by him and his men. It is capable of containing a barrel of liquid; and this is "Kidd's punch bowl;" a flat stone is called his table; and, doubtless, his bedstead and easy chair may be seen. Another of these little islets is called "Money Island." This has been dug up most industriously, but I never heard of any harvest resulting from the labour.

John. There must have been several piratical vessels committing robberies along the American coast, sir; for I have read of Blackbeard, and the people called bucaniers.

Un. Yes, piracies were very frequent at this period; and those miscreants who prowled along the coast of South America, and swept our shores, from the gulf of St. Lawrence to that of Mexico, occasionally ran into the ports of Boston, Newport, and New York. In the latter place, it is said, they had sometimes appeared openly, and there is good reason to believe that they were countenanced by Governor Fletcher.

John. A governor of New York encourage pirates!

Un. A king's governor, not a governor chosen by the people; and at a period when New York was a very insignificant place, and the colonists only valued for the profit to be made from them. Nichols, one of Fletcher's Council, (called his Majesty's Council,) has the honour of being handed down to us, by tradition, as the agent for the pirates; paid by them to further their views, and occasionally to stand between them and those they had injured. The English government tardily gave ear to the complaints made of the piratical depredations both in America and the East Indies, and when Lord Bellamont was appointed governor, he was instructed to remedy the evil. It happened that Col. Livingston, of New York, saw Bellamont in London, where Kidd then was, who had previously distinguished himself, as a privateer's man against the French in the West Indies. Livingston recommended him as a fit man to cruise against the pirates of the east and west. A number of noblemen and gentlemen subscribed to fit out a gallant vessel, and called her the Adventure Galley. Bellamont and Livingston were partners, and Kidd had five shares. He came to New York and shipped men for his cruise, being commissioned against the French, and against pirates; but, as we have seen, he turned pirate himself. We have no certain knowledge of his robberies on the American coast, but he was convicted of many acts of piracy, and of aiding other pirates, in the east. On his return to America, he is said to have plundered along the Spanish coast, and passing New York, he ran into the Sound, and landed on Gardiner's Island; where he buried a portion of his wealth, making Mr. Gardiner a confidant of the place of deposite, with promises of reward for th *safe keeping*, and threats of vengeance if unfaith *It is to be* presumed that Gardiner suppo

treasure to be the legal spoils of successful warfare. It appears that Kidd then went to Boston, and Bellamont there met him in the dress of a landsman and gentleman. As he could give no good account of the Adventure Galley, of which Bellamont was part owner, and moreover Kidd having been [illegible] as a pirate, the governor made him [illegible] and procured as much of his plunder as he could. The deposite on Gardiner's Island was discovered and surrendered to Bellamont. A schedule of the gold and jewels is in the hands of the heirs of Mr. Gardiner to this day. Now, go on with our history.

John. Lord Bellamont died, and left Nanfan governor; but another soon came.

Un. Yes; there was always some poor nobleman or minister's tool, ready to catch the office, and now King William sent Lord Cornbury, who couldn't pay his creditors in London, to alter upon the people of New York, because he was son of Lord Clarendon. When Queen Anne succeeded to the throne, she continued him, and gave him likewise the government of New Jersey. His conduct was so unjust, and his rapacity so great that the assembly of New Jersey sent a complaint to the queen against him.

John. Yes, sir; and she took the government of both provinces from him, and then the people of New York put him in jail to make him pay his debts. And then out comes another lord, as I remember, to be governor, and his name was a fine one for a lord—Lord Lovelace—but he died very soon, and left Mr. Ingoldsby, who once before was governor for a little while, to be the ruler; and by this time there was war again. I can't think why the people of New York had so many wars!

Un. Truly, boy, the surprise is natural. But these were not wars on their own account, or quar-

rels entered into by them; but as they were *subjects* of England, whenever the government that was so kind as to send them governors, and other officers, to live upon and despise them—whenever the king, or the queen, or the ministry, declared war against any nation, that nation was ready to rob the colonists. So, the people of England thought they might rob the colonies by taxing them without their consent, because they belonged to England, and were called "his majesty's plantations;" and the enemies of England robbed and murdered them for the same reason—because they belonged to the English. The French being the government that was generally in quarrel with England, on such occasions, vexed the people of New York, from their possessions in Canada; and now, as at other times, the colonies wished to take that country from the French: but all their efforts failed, until, as you remember—

Phil. O yes! General Wolfe took Quebec!

John. Mr. Ingoldsby was superseded, long before Wolfe's victory, by Col. Hunter; and during his time Queen Anne sent out forces to conquer Canada, and they were joined by troops from New York and New Jersey; and Col. Peter Schuyler, (who had been to England, and carried some of his Indians to show there,) he, too, was ready; but the fleet from England was wrecked in the river St. Lawrence, and all this preparation went for nothing.

Phil. Uncle Philip said worse than nothing; and I think so, too.

Un. Well, peace being again made between the European powers, the poor colonists who had nothing to do with their quarrels, but every thing to suffer, were left for a while at rest. This peace of 1713 was made at Utrecht, and called by that name. *Soon after,* Queen Anne died, and the Elector of Han-

over was called from Germany to be king over a people whose language he could scarcely speak or understand.

Wm. Uncle, why, if the English would have a king, did they not make a good Englishman king?

Un. My boy, if I was to attempt to give the reasons assigned, I should fatigue myself and you, without, perhaps, making myself understood; therefore we will wait some years for such questions, and push on.

Wm. Ay. Go ahead, John

John. Governor Hunter left New York, and left many friends; and Col. Schuyler ruled until Governor Burnet came out. He, Uncle Philip said, was one of the best of the governors, and did much to secure New York from the French of Canada. In his time, Oswego was begun, and a fort built; but then the French built another at Niagara, and the people were not satisfied, I think.

Un. No. The governor contended for a salary independent of the assembly, and the assembly very wisely chose to keep the strings of their own purse in their own hands; and so, as John says, Governor Burnet went to rule in Massachusetts, and there the same difficulties occurred. Do you remember any event of great consequence to America that happened before Governor Burnet left New York.

John. No, sir.

Un. Well, then, I will tell you. The second American Congress met at Albany.

Phil. O, you mistake, Uncle, we had no congress then.

Un. These early congresses were gentlemen sent from the different provinces, to meet and consult upon measures for the benefit of the whole. The *first took* place so long ago as 1643, to contrive *means of* defence against the Indians; but in 17?

a more general congress met at Albany, not in opposition to the king, (for many of the gentlemen were the king's governors,) but what made these meetings of great importance, was, that the colonists learned how to unite in council, for their own good, by sending deputies to some one place for deliberation; and we shall see that, by and by, this practice caused that union of the colonies, under the recommendations of the *Continental Congress*, which enabled them to resist the power of England, when she attempted to enforce her unjust laws on the country. I only mention this, children, *now*, that you may see how easily the people fell into that way of governing themselves when it became necessary to throw off the authority of the king's governors. Well, John, what king's-governor succeeded Mr. Burnet?

John. Mr. John Montgomerie, sir. He came in 1728, and died two years after; and Mr. Van Dam, who was president of the council, became the ruler of the colony. About this time the French governor of Canada built a fort at Crown Point. See, Mary, on the map; here, at Lake Champlain.

Un. The French were gradually extending a line, or chain, of forts, from the river St. Lawrence to the Mississippi; and if they had not been broken up by the success of the English, assisted by the people of the provinces, all that part of the United States, which you see there on the map, (the greater part of the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia,) with all the western states to the great South Sea, would have belonged to the French, for any thing we can now know. This fort at Crown Point was one link in the chain. Go on, John.

John. Mr. William Crosby came out as governor, and that ended Mr. Van Dam's rule.

Un. Cosby, not Crosby.

John. Uncle Philip said Crosby.

Un. He made a mistake. This man, whose name is infamous in our history, had no connexion with the name of Crosby, by which many of our respectable citizens are designated. Cosby not only caused turmoils during his administration, but, at his death, in 1736, left a fruitful cause of mischief. For although the government properly devolved on Mr. Van Dam, (the man whom the people wished to rule over them,) Cosby, as if on purpose to do evil, even after death, arbitrarily suspended, or removed, Mr. Van Dam from the council, and left as the president of that body an Englishman like himself, of the name of Clarke.

John. Yes, sir; but Mr. Van Dam, the American, did not give it up so!

Un. No. He considered the act of Cosby, in suspending him, as illegal; and he would not submit to Clarke, who was supported by the aristocratick or English party.

Phil. But the old Dutch and Americans were on Van Dam's side.

Un. Yes; and they would have supported him, although Clarke threatened to resort to arms. However, they did not get so far as in Leisler's time, for despatches came from their master, King George the Second, which decided the affair in favour of the Englishman, and Van Dam and the people submitted. But before we leave Mr. Cosby, I will tell you one story about him and his wife.

Mary. I wish, Uncle, you would tell us more stories.

Phil. About Indians.

Wm. About war.

Un. By and by. But this is about a wedding. *In the year 1732,* a lord arrived at New York, and *our people,* even the democrats, seemed to have

wonderful propensity to worship the lor
earth. This was a young man with a f
such as we read of in novels; he was called
Augustus Fitzroy, and was son to his g
Duke of Grafton. What does the mayo
corder, and common council, on being tol
Lord Augustus Fitzroy had come, and
Governor Cosby at the fort, but they all wa
the lord, "in a full body," and the recor
him a speech, and thanked him for the h
his presence, and presented him with the fr
the city in a gold box.

Phil. What good did that do him?

John. Then he was free to trade with th
or to make shoes and sell them.

Un. Even you, children as you are, lau
now; but *then*, the grave men of our ci
such fantastick tricks; and they were hono
gracious speech from the Lord Augustus
who in secret laughed at them.

Mary. But, Uncle, tell us of the weddi

Un. You must know, Mrs. Cosby, the g
wife, had some young lady daughters; and
ing that the Lord Augustus was a fooli
man, not much more than a great lubberly
trived to make up a match between him
Cosby. Cosby, who was in the plot, knew
be offensive to the boy's family, and preten
rance of the scheme. So, it was contriv
parson was introduced over the fort walls
managing mother had the young folks m
if by stealth. Such were the great folks
King George to govern the good people
York. Cosby died, as we have seen,
Cosby with her lady daughter went ho
the lord's father, his grace the duke,
family, disowned the daughter from

virtuous people, a few called Quakers only excepted. Even the Indians, the aboriginal lords of the soil, were in many instances reduced to a state of slavery; and the poor ignorant savages enticed to drunkenness by civilized and Christian men, were induced to sell their children for rum. The crime of drunkenness was more prevalent than now. I think that any one who reads the advertisements in the newspapers—who sees the rewards offered for runaways, white, red, or black; English, Scotch, Irish, Indian, and negro; who sees the slave described as having the initials of his master's name branded, that is, children, burnt, on his breast or shoulder; any one who recollects that criminals, even women, were whipped, on the bare body at the "cart's tail," through the streets, and that negroes were frequently burnt alive; will be convinced that there is an improvement in the manners and feelings of the people, and, of course, that they are better. But I tire you, children.

John. Not me, sir. But, sir, surely the first settlers of our country were good men.

Un. Many, my boy; and many continued to cherish the love of liberty, virtue, and true religion; but the mother country, from whose intolerance and bad government they had sought a refuge, still claimed them as her own. In vain did the wiser among the colonists protest against having slaves sent among them, and evince their repugnance to receiving the felons who were reprieved from the gallows, and sent "to *people* his majesty's plantations." We see the authentick record of thousands sent from the jails of London, and Dublin, and other towns, to ships appointed by the English government to bear them to "his majesty's plantations in *America*," and frequently they were mingled in the

me ship with the poor who came ...
country as redemptioners.

John. Redemptioners! What's that

Un. They were poor people, who ...
agreed with ship captains ...
to be sold for a certain number ...
paying for their passages ...
might be corrupted by being ...
the same place with the ...
tell you some curious ...
this practice.

Harry. Do so, Uncle!

Un. I'll pay you for ...
tell you a story.

Harry. A true story, ...

Un. To the best of ...
It runs thus ...
come to Dub...
enough to ...
criminals,) he ...
a great ...
condemned for ...
to poison ...

Mary. Poison, ...

Un. Moral poison ...

John. I under...
Irish people ...
them poor ...
the colonies ...

Un. Just so, ...
this West I...
received ...
who were ...
their passage ...
the voyage, the ...
persuading ...

should make themselves free by seizing on the vessel and landing in the country without being sold as servants. To do this, they must murder the captain and such of the crew as would not join them. So completely had the poor passengers become criminals, by being mingled with criminals, that they agreed to this dreadful proposal, and it was carried into execution. The rum-dealing captain and most of his sailors were murdered, and the murderers ran the brig on shore upon the coast of Nova Scotia, and then separated, each to secure himself, or herself, with such spoil from the wreck as he or she could carry off. Among the criminals was a woman, who had the remains of beauty, and the advantage of an education superiour to the rest. She had been one of the unfortunate females who are seduced from the paths of virtue, by those who are called gentlemen; and being abandoned, as usual, had sunk to such practices as reduced her to the fate and company of this crew of murderers. She had had address enough to gain from the captain his history, and an account of his estate or plantation in Barbadoes; and on being found alone in the woods of Nova Scotia, she said she was Mrs. Johnson, the wife of the captain of the brig: told a lamentable tale of the murder of her husband, and of her own sufferings, and excited the compassion of those who found her, to such a degree, that she was carried, with all the tenderness due to one in the situation she described, to Annapolis Royal, and introduced to the governor. Her appearance, her address, and her story, gained her the confidence of the governor and principal inhabitants. She told them, that on arriving at Barbadoes, she should take *possession* of her late husband's plantations, and *that she would* repay, with thanks, the kindness, and *with money* or produce the sums now loaned her.

return to Barbadoes [illegible]
w York and [illegible]
lies, to London. [illegible]
nage to [illegible]
ney. She [illegible]
, where [illegible]
disappeared [illegible]
Wm. She [illegible]

Un. Probably [illegible]
at city, she [illegible]
John. It [illegible]
s story [illegible]
Un. It may [illegible]
see the [illegible]
is planter [illegible]
ffick in [illegible]
destruction. [illegible]
yal but the [illegible]
ing woman [illegible]
led a life of [illegible]

CHAPTER V.

Un. Well, my good children, we will now go on with our history of New York, after you have looked at the picture of old Governor Stuyvesant's house; which, according to my promise, I now show you.

Mary. Tell us another story, Uncle, about old times.

Un. If I tell you stories, we shall never get through: but John will tell us, by and by, what he remembers of the negro plot, which is as extraordinary an event as any true or invented story I ever heard. When did that happen, John?

John. In 1741, sir, and during Governor Clarke's *reign.*

Un. A number of people were committed to jail as incendiaries, kept in dungeons for some months, (amidst the crowd of people confined upon suspicion, or upon the accusations of Mary Burton and others who thought to thrive by turning accusers,) and finally condemned to be hanged.

John. Can this be true, sir?

Un. We could scarcely have believed it, if one of the magistrates of the time had not recorded it. Mr. Horsemanden, the Recorder of the city, says, many people had such terrible apprehensions on the subject that several negroes, some of whom had assisted to put out the fires, were, when met in the streets, hurried away to prison; and when once *there*, they were continued in confinement because the magistrates could not spare time to examine them. Peggy Carey, finding that Mary Burton was to be rewarded, turned informer too; and accused whoever she wished ill to, or whoever she thought it would please the magistracy to accuse as a conspirator; but Peggy was too late, she could not save herself; and with Hughson, and his wife, she was hanged. But before the executions took place, the jail was crowded so full as to produce fears of another kind in the people: they were alarmed at the thought of pestilence; for the receivers of stolen goods, the thieves, and the supposed conspirators; whites, *Indian slaves*, negroes, (English-bred, Dutch, and Spanish,) were all crowded together, in the same building where the common council, magistrates, judges, and lawyers, met every day to receive information, examine and condemn. The fear of a jail-fever did not drive off the fear of conspirators, but it hastened the executions by way of making room in the dungeons.

Wm. I remember the jail, which is now a very handsome building, and called the Record office.

Un. That jail was not built in 1741. At the time we speak of, the only jail was in the lower part of the old city hall, in Wall street, where the custom house now stands; or rather where part of the custom house stands, for that building covers more ground than ten city halls of the time we are speaking of.

John. Was this the old Dutch city hall?

Un. No. It was the first city hall built by the English; and continued in the state I now describe until the adoption of the Federal Constitution, when it was very much enlarged and remodelled for the reception of the first congress under the present system of government.

Wm. Had the Dutch a city hall, Uncle?

Un. They had: but it was called the *Stadt Huys* by them. It was built in 1637.

Wm. In Wall street?

Un. O no. Wall street was then (as you ought to remember) the line of the city wall or palisade, with gates that were locked every evening at the setting of the watch, when the bell rung; and opened again at daylight. The first city hall or stadt huys was at the head of Coenties' slip, and in what was called Dock street, now forming a part of Pearl street. Here is a picture of it.

Wm. Thank you, sir. I should like to know when this old Dutch city hall was destroyed, and the first English city hall in Wall street built.

Un. If you will read this memorandum, made from the records of the corporation, (begun in the old stadt huys, and continued in the second city hall,) you will know all that is now to be learned on the subject.

Wm. "On the 25th day of May, 1699, Johannes Depeyster, being mayor, James Graham, recorder, Messrs. Boelen, Lewis, Walters, Wenham, and *Cortlandt*, aldermen, present. The board taking

nsideration
ll, doo man
nly dissent
vith all co
e erected
street with
ed that
ed to say
be left
Thus
they de
greater

m. "And
adt huy
outcry
belong
ron wor
e cage,

same," were ordered to be removed within t
months, and the slip to remain for ever for th
of the city. The corporation however reserv
one month the use of the jail within the old h
and on these conditions, John Rodman, mer
bought it, with the ground and appurtenances.
the 16th of October, 1699, the corporation (
Provoost, being mayor) ordered an estimate
made of materials for the intended city hall, in
street; and that the same committee view
block house, by the governor's garden," to kn
it will answer for a prison. On the 1st Nove
following, the estimate of materials was repor
above ordered. It was 1150*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*; and i
ordered that the materials be furnished befor
25th of March, 1700; and that the money for
ing the new city hall be raised before that day
the 16th day of January, 1700, a committee
appointed to superintend the building of the
hall. On the 2d of November, 1700, ordered,
the common council sit at the city hall, on th
Saturday in every month;" therefore I conclud
the new city hall, in Wall street, was ready for
reception; the old stadt huys having been lor
fore taken down."

Un. Now I resume my story.

John. I wish, sir, that you would be as pa
lar about this negro plot as is agreeable to
I tried to read the book, although I could n
derstand it: I thought that all the negroes
others who were hanged and burnt must have
very wicked, though I could not believe that
deserved such cruel treatment.

Un. I will endeavour to give you a clear r
of this affair, at least as I understand it accordi
the representation of Mr. Horsemanden himse
ways remembering that he must have felt inte

in justifying proceedings in which he was an actor; for, my children, we are prone to the excusing of ourselves for acts which we are afraid may appear wrong in the eyes of others; and the greater our doubts of the propriety of our conduct *may be*, the more strenuous we are in our endeavours to convince ourselves, and others, that we were right.

Wm. But, sir, the negroes confessed that they intended to set fire to the city, and murder the people.

Un. Listen, and I will endeavour to explain. Many of these poor ignorant creatures were taken up on suspicion, and, as I have said, crowded together, when the weather was very hot, in dungeons; they suffered terribly, and believed that they were to be burned, or at least hanged. They heard the accusations against them. They saw the consternation of the inhabitants; which was such, that the people removed their furniture and sought safety in flight from the city; giving any price for carts, wagons, or boats; and for labourers to assist them in their flight. This confusion gave an opportunity for thieves to plunder; and all robbery was charged upon the negroes and their accomplices. The magistrates ordered that each alderman, assistant, and constable, should make search in his ward for strangers; and the militia was turned out under arms, and sentries were posted at every avenue.

Phil. Why, Uncle, this was as bad as Major Drum.

Un. It produced the same kind of effect, but in a greater degree. When the inhabitants saw and heard all this—the militia paraded—the aldermen and constables searching for incendiaries—the negroes seized and hurried to jail, and the justices sitting day after day to examine the prisoners; how could they but think that they were in imminent danger?

Every black face and every strange visage appea
as that of an enemy; and it was in vain the negr
protested that they knew nothing of any plot. M
Burton, who had been promised money and her
erty for her discovery *of a plot*, said there *was o*
and the magistrates said the same. No stranger
suspicious persons were discovered when the g
search was made; but one alderman found in
possession of *Robin*, the negro of Mr. Chamb
and in possession of *Cuba*, his wife, "some thing
says the recorder, "which he thought unbecom
the condition of a slave:" *that is*, too good for s
people, "and he committed" Robin and his wif
jail.

Wm. All this is very strange, sir.

Un. You must bear in mind, that it had b
proved that robberies had been committed by so
negroes, and that some white men were concer
with them; receiving the stolen goods and enco
aging them to steal; and that slaves were from th
very condition liable to temptation, and without
safeguards possessed by other men.

John. What do you mean, sir?

Un. I mean that not being capable by law
holding property, they were tempted to purloin *t*
of their masters; and having no hope of better c
dition, they were without the incitements to w
doing which freemen possess; they knew they w
suspected of thieving, and of secretly meeting
gether. Their masters suspected them of evil
signs; and the affair at Hughson's—the fires—
some discoveries of the blacks having secret m
ings, convinced the people while in this state of p
ick, that *all the negroes* had conspired to burn
town, and murder the inhabitants.

Wm. Go on with the story, if you please, sir.

Un. While the trials of Hughson and his w

were in progress for the receiving stolen goods, and the conviction and execution of several of the negroes took place, proclamations were made, offering pardons to the free who should make discovery of the plot, or accuse others; and pardon and liberty to the slaves who should do the same; and rewards in money to both. The consequence was, that the negroes who were in jail accused themselves, and others, hoping to save their own lives, and obtain the promised boons. What one poor wretch invented, was heard and repeated by another; and by degrees the story assumed the shape of a regular plot, instigated by Hughson and his wife, joined in by their daughter and the depraved Peggy Carey, with a multitude of negroes, until the historian exclaims: "This evidence of a conspiracy, not only to burn the city, but also to destroy and murder the people, was most astonishing to the grand jury." They were astonished that the blacks should be so wicked, but "that any white people should confederate with slaves," was, as he says, "very amazing." The only whites accused by Mary Burton, (the principal and, for a time, the only witness,) were the Hughsons; but by and by she implicated others, and, as I said, a schoolmaster, by the name of Ury, who was an English clergyman, and had left his country in consequence of persecution, he having refused the oaths required by the government.

John. Such were called non-jurors.

Un. Right. It appeared by witnesses, irreproachable, and by this poor man's diary, that he had taught school in Pennsylvania, and New Jersey; that he came to New York and was employed to teach; and finally entered into a partnership with another schoolmaster, one Campbell; and they hired the house which Hughson and wife had been re

moved from, when accused of recei
goods, but found the daughter *there*, a
proved her for her profanity. She wa
against him. It appears to me, that the
were ashamed of the accusation of cons
the negroes, and they therefore added
ry; which, at that time, was a capital
priest of the Roman Catholick religion,
the province.

Wm. I can't understand, sir.

Un. The history of England, of tha
explain it to you. I must finish the st
John Ury. The pretence that he con
negroes to burn the town was so absur
the panick-struck court and jury could
mitted it; but a person was found who
he made a kind of a desk for Ury, whi
strued into being an altar; and anot
swore that he had applied to him to m
supposed to be such as Romish priest
this time England, and of course th
were involved in war with Spain; and
believed that Romish priests and Jesuit
to America for the purpose of instigatin
to revolt and murder; in short, the cou
were convinced that Ury was a Romish
worthy of death, upon testimony that no
ple frantick with fear would have listen

John. What was it, sir?

Un. I must first mention that one
dier, of the most loathsome character,
course of the trials) given testimony o
he had seen negroes sworn to burn the
described the ceremony as taking plac
son's tavern: the negroes being placed
made with chalk, and mother Hughson
the centre, with a punch bowl, and ad

the oath. This absurd fable was a hint for Hughson's wretched daughter; and *she* described Ury as making a circle on the floor with chalk, placing the negroes on the chalk, and standing in the middle with a crucifix, instead of a punch bowl; and baptizing and swearing them. This must have been too palpably absurd; but lo! Elias Desbrosses, a confectioner, deposed, that Ury came to his shop, with one Webb, a carpenter, and wanted *sugar bits*, or wafers: and asked him, "Whether a minister had not his wafers of him? or, whether *that paste*, which the deponent showed, was not made of the same ingredients as the Lutheran minister's?" "or, something to that purpose." And he told Ury that, if he wanted such things, a joiner could make him a mould; and asked him, "if he had a congregation; but Ury waived giving him an answer." Webb, the carpenter, who accompanied Ury to the confectioner's, was examined, and his whole testimony amounted to Ury having told him that he had written a book, in England, which was called treason, although he did not mean it so; and that a friend, a great man, got him off; that on religious subjects, the carpenter could not "*always understand him*;" that, as to negroes he had a very despicable opinion of them; and, that after Campbell removed to the house which Hughson had occupied, Ury went thither, and the deponent likewise went to the place three times, and heard Ury read prayers in the manner of the Church of England; but in the prayer for the king he did not mention the name; that, he preached against drunkenness, debauchery, and deists; admonishing every one to keep to his own minister; and that he said, "he only gave a word of admonition at the request of the family where he was." He has heard him say, that such and such a day, "was his sacrament

day;" and *thinks* he has heard him say, "tha
must administer the sacrament, but cannot be
tive." Upon such testimony, and that of the w
less wretch, *Sarah Hughson*, whose story was
surdity itself, yet was believed; upon such
mony, (enforced by a letter to the governor, say
that the Spaniards were sending Jesuits disgu
as schoolmasters and dancing-masters to cause
volts among the negroes,) was Ury, after a mast
defence, (made by himself,) convicted, condem
and hanged.

Wm. Oh, Uncle! could it be?

John. It is terrible to think of, sir.

Phil. But they burnt the negroes; tell us of
sir.

Un. There were thirteen blacks burned ali
tied or chained to stakes, and thus tortured to d
while surrounded by a crowd of people calling,
believing, themselves Christians. Eighteen bl
were hanged; seventy were transported to the W
Indies, or other places; Hughson, his wife,
Peggy Carey, were hanged. Several of the
groes declared that they had accused themse
and others, because they had been told *that* was
only way to save their lives. One poor wretc
described, "lifting up his leg," as he sat with
back to the stake, to which he was fast bound,
laying it down on the fire, as he lifted up his
and cried aloud on those who had advised hi
confess *that* of which he knew nothing. But
us close this story of guilt, terrour, and horrou

Wm. What became of the vile woman who
so many falsehoods?

Un. She was rewarded by being made free,
comparatively rich; for she received 81*l.*, in
tember, 1742, (having been all the time of the
als, from early in 1741, maintained by the ma

ates,) with 15[illegible] [illegible]
hole, the 10[illegible] reward [illegible]
om September, 174[illegible] [illegible]
arms and [illegible]
id a little before [illegible]
order, (H[illegible] [illegible]
arges the grand jury [illegible]
ppling houses, &c. [illegible]
ains and [illegible]
ken to bring [illegible]
e tells them [illegible]
es are [illegible]
ape of [illegible]
ans, and [illegible]
evil." He [illegible]
find any such [illegible]
hem to the [illegible]
ccording to law." [illegible]
the "good [illegible]
nd of the [illegible]
Horsemanden. [illegible]
an to cry [illegible] Mary Burton [illegible]
mony, and she [illegible]
some consequence [illegible]
well: the magistrates [illegible]
ons which [illegible]
r conspirators [illegible]
Mary Burton.

John. Is it not very strange [illegible] a person should be [illegible] a priest of the Roman Catholic [illegible]?

Un. It would [illegible] criminal [illegible] me there was a [illegible] in England [illegible] easonable and perhaps [illegible] xist. Do you remember any [illegible] appened during Governor Clarke's [illegible]

John. Yes, sir. Mr. Clarke went up to *Albany* to negotiate with the Indians of the Five Nations for a tract of land, called Irondequot, somewhere near Oswego, but he was disappointed. And I remember another of his acts: the French, you know, *sir,* had a fort at Crown Point, which commanded *Lake* Champlain, and it was said that they were about to build another at Wood creek; and Mr. Clarke conceived a scheme to bring over a large body of Scotch highlanders, and to settle them as a kind of advance-guard against the French encroachments.

Un. The plan was a good one, but it is supposed that it was defeated by the Governor's mingling his own mercenary schemes with it.

John. Yes, sir. He promised Mr. Campbell, who was their leader, thirty thousand acres of land, and upon this Mr. Campbell brought out eighty-three families at his own expense and sold his property in Scotland. When he arrived Clarke did not fulfil his engagement; the colonists were obliged to shift for themselves, and Campbell could only purchase a farm, and become a cultivator in a strange and wild country. Many of these highlanders enlisted in the expeditions against Cuba and Carthagena.

Un. And some of their descendants, with other Scotch emigrants, joined Sir John Johnson, and his Indians, in devastating the frontiers of New York in the war we are to speak of.

John. The war of independence. And I remember, sir, that Clarke told the legislature that the English government even then had jealousies that the colonies wished to throw off their dominion and become independent.

Un. Now let us go and walk in the fields, over *at Hoboken*; and to-morrow we will resume the *stories of* old time.

Wm. But, Uncle, you might tell us something more of the French wars.

Un. There is an incident in the history of the province of New York that ought to be mentioned in detail, but it happened in 1690.

Wm. O, never mind that, sir.

Un. Mr. G. F. Yates, of Schenectady, is preparing for the press a work called "Antiquarian Researches, and Olden Time Reminiscences of the Mohawk Valley," and being in correspondence with him he has permitted me to show you a beautiful picture painted for him by Mr. Chapman, of our city, and engraved by Mr. Adams, representing the burning of Schenectady by the French and Indians; and we will read the account he has published of this dreadful scene:—"The inhabitants of Schenectady were not ignorant of the designs of their remorseless foes, the French of Canada and their savage allies. Often when we think danger is the farthest off, it is near at hand. It was so on this occasion. The guard which had been kept for many a weary night, was at this time intermitted. The truth is, it was not supposed to be practicable, at such an inclement season of the year, for any body of forces to march through a wilderness which was hardly passable in the summer, with no covering from the heavens, or any provisions except what they carried about their persons.

"Such was the restless spirit of the French, that it became a necessary policy with their commander, the Count de Frontignac, to keep in action the most daring of them and revive their flagging spirits. He accordingly projected three expeditions against the English colonies. Of these the surprising of Schenectady was one. This was committed to the superintendence of Monsieur de Herville.

"Near midnight they entered the guard-gates

the town unperceived, and silently divided them
into small parties, that they might make a si
neous attack on all the inhabitants. The war-
was raised, the signal for destruction. Like de
loosened 'from their kindred hell,' they broke
every dwelling and murdered all they met, w
distinction of age, sex, or condition; and at the
time, to complete the havock, applied the bl
torch to every building. The slumbering in
ants started from their sleep, bewildered, fra
Some hid themselves and remained secure, un
flames drove them from their lurking places;
they fell beneath the tomahawk or were taken
oners. Others ran half-naked and barefoot in
adjoining woods, whence a few escaped after ex
sufferings to Connestigiuna and Albany, and
perished miserably on the way. Surprised, u
ed, and defenceless, resistance was in vain. Co
and cries for mercy were alike unavailing.
same fate awaited the craven and the brave.
some of the inhabitants, however, this assaul
not altogether unexpected, and they had for
time previously taken the necessary precauti
prevent surprise. Among those who made a
cessful defence and kept the foe at bay, was
Vrooman, whose building is represented on the
of the engraving. Being well supplied with
munition, and trusting to the strength of his
ing, which was a sort of fort, he formed the desp
resolution to defend himself to the last extre
and if it should prove to be his fate to perish i
flames of his own domicil, to sell his own lif
that of his children as dearly as possible. Sec
in his efforts by one of his sons, who assisted in
ing his guns, he kept up a rapid and continuou
upon his assailants, and with the most deadly e
His house was soon filled with smoke. His

nearly suffocated with it, cautiously, yet imprudently, placed the door ajar. This an alert Indian perceived, and firing through the aperture killed her. In the mean time one of his daughters escaped through the back hall-door with his infant child in her arms, as depicted in the engraving. They snatched the little innocent from her arms, and dashed out its brains; and in the confusion of the scene the girl escaped. Their triumph here was, however, of short duration; Mr. Vrooman succeeded in securely bolting the door, and preventing the intrusion of the enemy. On witnessing Mr. Vrooman's courage, and fearing greater havock among their chosen band, the enemy promised, if he would desist, to save his life and not set fire to his building. This promise they fulfilled, but carried off two of his sons into captivity.

"Mark how vividly the engraver has depicted the confusion of men and things. Observe the sullen darkness of the heavens—no light is there save that proceeding from the conflagration: with the sparks of fire, we think we see the flakes of snow commingle. As the flashes of light fall upon the faces of the men they wear an unearthly aspect. The Schenectidians, wild in their attire, are seen flying, they know not whither; or lying slaughtered with their cattle in the streets. The newly fallen snow is clotted with the blood of infants torn from their mothers' agonizing embrace. The young props round which had gathered 'the tendrils of aged fathers' hearts,' are rudely wrenched away—and along the encrimsoned snow the stiffened corses of young and old alike are strewed.

"The news of this dreadful massacre reached Albany next day. The Albanians were exceedingly alarmed, and many resolved to go to New York. The Mohawk sachems, when they came to condole

with them on the 25th of March thereafter
ed them in a set speech, and persuaded th
main. From this speech we make the
extract, which may serve to give some id
Indian genius:

"'Brethren, be not discouraged, we a
enough. This is the beginning of your
the whole house have their eyes fixed upo
this time, to observe your behaviour. T
your motion, and are ready to join in any
measures. We, as to our parts, are resolu
tinue the war. We will never desist so
man of us remains. Take heart, do not
and go away; this will imbolden a dastardl
(*A belt is given.*)

"'Brethren, three years ago, we we
ged in a bloody war with the French, and
couraged us to proceed in it. Our succes
ed our expectation; but we were not w
when Corlear stopped us from going on.
permitted us to go on, the French would
been able to do the mischief they have do
would have humbled them effectually, bu
die. The obstructions you then made nov
Let us after this be steady, and take no s
measures for the future, but prosecute the
orously.—(*Giving a beaver skin.*)

"'The brethren must keep good watch
the enemy come again, send more speed
Don't desert Schenectady. The enemy w
in seeing it desolate: it will give those cou
had none before. Fortify the place—it is
fortified now: the stockades are so short th
dians can jump over them.—(*Gives a beav*

"'Brethren, the mischief done at Schene
not be helped now; but for the future whe
my appears anywhere, let nothing hinder

sending to us expresses, and fire great guns, that all may be alarmed. We advise you to bring all the river Indians under your subjection, to live near Albany, that they may be ready on all occasions.

"'Send to New England, and tell them what has happened to you. They will undoubtedly awake, and lend us their helping hand. It is their interest as much as ours to push the war to a speedy conclusion. Be not discouraged, the French are not so numerous as some people talk. If we but heartily unite to push on, and mind our business, the French will soon be subdued.'

"Before the day dawned the foe retreated homeward, having murdered about seventy of the inhabitants, and secured about fifty as prisoners. Of these, twenty were liberated out of gratitude to Captain Alexander Glen, a noted gentleman who resided in the neighbourhood of Schenectady, on the north side of the Mohawk river, and who has given name to the present town of Glenville in this county. Mr. Glen had, on previous occasions, manifested much kindness to several Frenchmen, who had been taken captive by the Mohawks; and had saved them from torture and death. A few Mohawks found in Schenectady, were also set free; in order no doubt to conciliate their nation, and make them less eager to retaliate. In this, however, they were disappointed.

"The Mohawk nation had four towns located in the valley of the Mohawk, besides a small village about one hundred miles west of Schenectady. These were called by the whites, 'castles,' or fortresses, as they were all fortified. They were numbered according to their distances from Schenectady, the nearest being called 'the first Indian castle.' The aboriginal names were as follows: Cahhaniaga, (probably the same as Caghnawaga,) Canagora, Canajorha, and Tionondaga. The Indians of the

three first castles were, during the enactment
dreadful tragedy we have attempted to descri
sent on a hunting expedition to their western t
ries. Several days necessarily elapsed befo
Tionondaga band were notified of the massac
the messenger despatched for the purpose. On
ing the news, they hastened to Schenectady; w
they sent a hundred of their young warrio
pursuit of the enemy, who overtook them, and
or made captive twenty-five of their number.
old chiefs remained to comfort the inhabitant
assist them in burying their dead."

CHAPTER VI.

Un. Let us now proceed with our history. Mr. Clarke, I think, did not rule much longer, after the affair with Mr. Campbell and the Scotch highlanders.

John. No, sir; the people did not like him, and the assembly let him know it; and that they were glad another Governor was coming.

Un. But he had accomplished *that* which English governors and other officers were sent to the colonies for. He had sent home money and purchased an estate. He retired with a fortune of a hundred thousand pounds; and who came next?

John. Governor Clinton.

Phil. Why he was governor a little while ago; wasn't he?

Un. The same name, and said to be of the same family originally. We have had two governors Clinton, during and since the war of independence; men chosen by the people, serving the people, and beloved by them; but the man who succeeded Clarke, was a younger son of an English lord, and was sent out to make, or mend, his fortune, as others of the same description had been.

John. I remember, sir, that during his rule in New York, there was war again with the French and Indians. This was in the reign of George the Second; and because they quarrelled in Europe, the people here had to suffer for it. The French, from their fort at Crown Point, invaded New York with their Indians; and the people of Saratoga and Hoosac were murdered, as were those of other places. And I remember that the colonies sent troops to Louisburg, and took it.

Un. Right, boy; but we will not enter
details of that war. In the histories of t
you will find an account of the taking o
burg, and the ineffectual attempts to take
from the French.

Wm. That was done afterward by the bra
eral Wolfe.

Un. We must return to Governor Clin
first of the name, and very different from th
afterward made the name to be loved. T
glish governor was received with great jo
people because they wanted a change, but th
as glad to get rid of him in a few years.
a man of indolence, fond of wine, and o
unfit for the duties of a man, public or
His wife and his favourites governed, until
sembly were tired of the impositions laid o

John. But peace was restored to the cou
fore he went.

Un. Yes. The people in Europe conc
peace, called from the place at which it was
upon, the peace of *Aix la Chapelle;* so as E
and France (or rather the kings, and nob
their mistresses) chose to make their quar
the people of America were permitted for
time to be unmolested by brutal soldiers and
Indians, or insulted by the assumed superi
insolent English officers.

John. But all the English officers were n
lent to Americans, sir.

Un. Certainly not. Yet there was a
feeling of that kind pervading the whole
provincials were considered as inferiours,
pendants; and it was the treatment they m
from both the civil and military officers sent
England, which, when added to the usurpa
the parliament, created and nursed the spir

le people that eventually produced resistance, war, nd independence. Well, John, go on; who suc-eeded this *English* Governor Clinton?

John. Sir Danvers Osborne.

Wm. O, I remember him, because of his strange eath.

John. He arrived in October, 1753, and was re-ived with great rejoicings. Governor Clinton as not at the new house that had been built in the rt, so Sir Danvers went to Mr. Murray's house, ho was one of the council. Next day Mr. Clin-n came from Flushing, and having made Mr. elancey lieutenant-governor, he resigned the gov-rnment to Mr. Osborne. But while all the people ere rejoicing, the new governor was melancholy. [e arrived, I remember, on the 7th, and in the orning of the 12th, was found dead, suspended by handkerchief to the fence of Mr. Murray's gar-en. It was afterward known that he had been eranged before he left England. He must have een very unhappy, sir.

Un. Most true, my son. This unfortunate gen-eman had lost his wife, and had been, from the me of her death, very much depressed in spirit. lis friends had hoped that by sending him to New ork, the change of scene, and employment, would ave cured him of the evident mental disease under hich he laboured; but on his arrival he found at if he obeyed the instructions of the English inistry, he should be as odious to the people as is predecessor; the nature of his malady made he difficulties of his situation appear insurmount-ble—madness ensued, and he became a self-nurderer. Mr. Delancey, who had been chief-*ustice, being* now lieutenant-governor, was the *ad of the* government until England sent out *other ruler,* in Sir Charles Hardy; who wa

by profession a sailor, knew nothing of the country he was sent to govern, and was guided by Mr. Delancy, during his stay in the colony, which was about two years; when he hoisted his flag as admiral, and left the province entirely to Delancey. All this time the country was disturbed by wars, of which you remember the principal events, doubtless.

John. Yes, sir. General Braddock and an army was defeated near Fort Pitt, and General Abercrombie at Ticonderoga; and Mr. Johnson defeated the French under General Baron Dieskau, and General Wolfe took Quebec.

Un. The complicated events of this war, can only be understood by reading the general histories of the time. The last event you have mentioned overthrew the power of the French in America, frustrating their great plans of encircling the colonies of England by a chain of forts and garrisons, from the St. Lawrence to the Mississippi.

John. I remember, sir; and it appears to me that the rulers of that nation had great designs in respect to this country, and that they were executed by great men.

Wm. But, Uncle, you do not tell us any thing about the Indians. Uncle Philip used to tell us all about their war dances, their scalps, and their way of killing their enemies, and their prisoners.

Un. By and by, we will have one "*long talk*," (as the Indians say,) about all that: for the war of our independence had Indians in it as well as other savages, and I would wish you to understand the people who possessed all this great continent before the white men came to disturb them.

Phil. But, Uncle, General Washington was in *this* French war; and I love to hear of him.

Un. Yes; he was a provincial officer at Braddock's defeat; and had done good service to his

country before: but the English officers, as I have said, despised the provincials, and they suffered for it *then*, as they did *afterward*. There was an English officer under Braddock at that time, with whom we shall have a great deal to do by and by; he was then a captain, and a young man, and only had a subaltern's share in the misfortunes of the day. Major Washington probably then became acquainted with him for the first.

Mary. I want to know all about Washington!

Un. We shall have to talk much of him, in due time—but I must get you Mr. Paulding's book about him; and when you are older you will read all his letters, which give the best history of him.

John. But who, sir, was the Englishman you spoke of, that was with Braddock?

Un. Captain Horatio Gates.

Wm. O, the great and famous General Gates!

Un. I will tell you who he was; but not yet. We are now coming to the troublesome times that produced the war of which you wish to hear; but I must endeavour to make you understand the causes. You, John, are old enough to appreciate the value of those rights for which the colonies contended, first by arguments and remonstrances, and then by the sword.

Wm. And I know that the English king treated us very ill.

Phil. And I too.

Mary. But you promised us more stories.

Un. I will perform my promise by telling you one, that could only have happened in a country like ours at that time, where the governors and officers all came from another hemisphere, and had no interest in the welfare of the people; a country that was considered by the king of England and his ministers as a place on which to disgorge the cri

inals they wished to get rid of; without t
the gallows; and by the people as a marke
manufactures, and for the slaves they cou
steal upon the coast of Africa. You rem
story of the Irish woman who made the
of Annapolis-Royal believe she was t
of a rich West India planter?

Mary. Oh, yes; she was one of the p
from the jail of Dublin to be sold, but wh
ed the captain and ran away with the s
member.

Un. Well, I will tell you of another
lady by birth and education; an Engli
who was sent to the colonies and sold f

Phil. A white slave, Uncle?

Un. Yes, boy; there are a great m
slaves—the worst are those who are slave
passions, their vices, and their evil hab
woman had become *such* a slave, before
sentenced by the laws of England to be
an American colonist.

Wm. Tell us her history, sir.

Un. I will; not only for your amusem
show the state of society in the times
country was independent—the "good o
that some people still talk of. This En
was named Sarah Wilson. You know,
tries where there are artificial ranks or cla
ciety—where there are people who are *ca*
however little and mean they may be
great riches descends to them from their
who are prohibited by law from suffering
tates to go to any but the oldest son, or t
tary successor of the family.—Do you un

John. As the crown and the kingdom
in England, to the oldest son of the fam

Un. And so of other estates; for in th

mes" the people were only considered, by kings, s part of their property. Well, where such artiial distinctions exist, the great folks, to show their nperiority to others, have servants of an order bove common people. The king is served by lords, nd the queens and princesses by ladies; so this ıdy, Miss Sarah Wilson, was among the lady-serants to the honourable Miss Vernon, who was a ervant, or maid of honour, of the queen. Unfornately, Miss Wilson was not a maid of *honour* or *onesty;* for she, although a favourite of the honurable Miss Vernon's, and an intelligent young ady herself, coveted the diamonds, and other finery, vhich glittered in her eyes; and having an accieental opportunity, when on an errand to her maesty, opened a casket and stole the queen's picture, ichly set in diamonds, with several other jewels, vhich she secreted about her person, and carried off.

Mary. What! a lady, and steal? do you believe t, sir?

Un. A lady by birth, but not a lady in principle, ny dear; a real lady, truly honourable and truly eligious, could not have done this, or even have vished to possess the property of another. But this nhappy woman, who perhaps had never yielded to emptation before, was not duly instructed in her ternal or wordly interests. Had she been truly *a ady*, these jewels, however beautiful or however ostly, would have possessed no temptation for her. 3ut she had been educated in vanity, and the love if dissipation, although destined to poverty; beause the property of her parents was appropriated o the oldest son of the family. She saw deference aid to the possessors of splendour; and after cherhing the desire to possess these glittering toys *hat seemed to* constitute the worth of the wearer, *e, in an unhappy moment, yielded to the tempta*

tion which opportunity presented, and became—a thief.

Phil. Now, Uncle, I do believe you are making this story, as you go along, all out of your own head.

Un. Why do you think so, Philip?

Phil. Because, how could you know what Sarah Wilson thought?

Un. You love to hear me tell stories. I will tell you such as are connected with the history of the people of the colonies. The principal incidents relative to this Sarah Wilson are facts; but I must add to them some *supposed* facts, and motives, to account for part of her real story that would otherwise appear improbable. But I will distinguish between that which I *suppose*, and that which is known.

John. Don't interrupt the story, sir; let us guess at that part which is your invention.

Un. Well, boy, be it so. But you will find that the real is sometimes more improbable than the supposed or fictitious.

Phil. I don't see how that can be.

Mary. Philip, I wish you wouldn't interrupt Uncle!

Un. This poor young woman, although accomplished, as it is called, had been badly taught, and had bad examples before her. The jewels were after a time missed, but no suspicion fell upon Miss Wilson. In such cases suspicion often falls upon the innocent, and they perhaps suffer. After a time one of the jewels was offered by a jeweller for sale; it was known to have been the queen's. Inquiry was made after the person who sold it to the dealer, and although Miss Wilson had been very cunning, as she thought, the fact of selling the jewel was traced *to her*. The very circumstance of her being dis*guised* when she sold the article was a proof of *guilt*, and served to convict her. She was

up, tried, and condemned, according to the laws of England, to suffer death.

Mary. O, dear!

Un. Only think what she must have suffered even before detection how miserable she must have been; living in constant fear because of her consciousness of guilt. But although her parents had caused her to be poor, by giving all their property to her brother that he might do honour to the family name, as is customary in Europe, they now sought to save themselves from the disgrace of having a child publickly executed as a felon; and Miss Vernon, whose attendant she had been, (and who had been attached to her,) likewise exerted herself to prevent the sad catastrophe. It short, she was reprieved; that is, the execution was put off—and after a time, she was sentenced to be transported to the colonies, and sold as a servant, or slave for life.

John. As people like her have since been sent to Botany Bay.

Un. Yes. A practice still continued by the English.

John. But did she restore the other jewels, and the queen's picture?

Un. The most surprising part of her story, and recorded as a fact, is, not that she restored them, but that she persisted in declaring herself innocent, and had such consummate art as to conceal and carry away with her the picture and the remainder of the stolen property. This can only be accounted for from the favour shown her by her former lady, Miss Vernon; for if she had been searched with the rigour used in the cases of common criminals, the jewels must have been found.

John. But, sir, was she sent out to America and actually sold?

Un. Yes. With other convicts, she was trans

ported to Maryland, and purchased by Mr. Duval, of Bush creek. It is to be supposed that she was not treated as a common servant, perhaps her employment was that of a nurse, or if she could make her master and mistress believe that she had been unjustly condemned, she might have been intrusted as a teacher to the children of the family. Be that as it may, she had now become an adept in deceit, and she formed a bold plan to obtain liberty, and make use of the property she had concealed. We must imagine that by the favour shown her, she had been suffered to bring with her the clothing in which she had officiated as Miss Vernon's attendant. By what means she escaped from Mr. Duval's is not recorded; and we are left to suppose that having gained the confidence of the family, she might have been left in charge of the house, when the master and mistress made some distant visit. Certain it is that she escaped to Virginia, and there appeared in a fictitious character; and that she was received and treated as the princess *Susannah Carolina Matilda*, and sister to the queen of England.

John. That does appear almost impossible, sir.

Un. To make my story probable, I must introduce another character; a most finished rogue, well known in his time, by the name of Tom Bell. This vagabond had been likewise sent from an English prison to add to the value of his majesty's plantations, for so the people of England used to call all this country.

Phil. How could a rogue add to the value of a country, sir?

Un. Well asked, boy. But such was the way the English people talked. They sent slaves and infamous convicts among the people who had fled to this continent to avoid slavery and the contagion of European vices. This was called pol-

to increase the population, and by so doing, create a demand for English manufactures. For the colonists were prohibited from making many things for themselves, and were not allowed if possible to buy them from any other country but England. Remember *this* when we come to talk of the causes of the American war.

Mary. But, Uncle, what had Tom Bell to do with Sarah Wilson?

Un. Ah, the story! You may imagine that it would be difficult for this woman, however artful, to pass herself off for a princess, and impose on the people of Virginia, as is recorded, if she had not been assisted by some cunning confederate. Such a one was Tom Bell. This accomplished scoundrel had been sold to a trader or shopkeeper, in Burlington, New Jersey, and gained the good will of his master so far that he was intrusted to carry goods about the country as a pedler. You may suppose he cheated the confiding owner, and by degrees accumulated some money from the gains of his pack. He then decamped, pack and all, and by various artifices got off to Virginia. You must remember that at that time the country was thinly inhabited, the roads bad, newspapers scarcely known, in comparison to our days, and although Tom was advertised, he eluded detection. He fell in with Sarah Wilson, and recognised, in her, one who had been tried at the same assizes with himself, although they had been shipped for America by separate vessels, and to different colonies. As they were known to each other, they were obliged to trust each other; and Tom communicated to her a bold plan of imposture, after inducing her to confess that she had possession of some money, as well as himself, and (what suggested the scheme to him) a good wardrobe, rich jewels, and the queen's picture.

John. Ah! I begin to see how it might be done.

Mary. Hush, John!

Un. The story they agreed upon was probably this. That she should declare herself to be the princess Susannah Carolina Matilda, sister to the queen of England, and he was to personate her betrothed lover, Mr. Edward Sothway, a private gentleman of fortune; for the love of whom she had been induced to fly to America, as her royal relations forbade their union. That she had lately received letters which rendered further incognito unnecessary; despatches by which they had certainty of being recalled, and the marriage permitted; he being first elevated to the rank of an earl, by his gracious majesty, at the intercession of his royal consort. As proofs of her high rank she was to produce the jewels, and above all, the picture of her august sister.

Phil. Can the king make earls?

Un. He can make any factitious titulary personage, and can bestow the riches of the country, to give any blockhead the dignity derived from splendour; but he cannot make either a learned or an honest man. The king is called, in England, the source of honour; thus, to my simple notion, usurping the attribute of Deity. It is only the Most High, my children, who can bestow true honour, which alone belongs to talents united with virtue.

John. But, sir, many dukes and lords have been good men—noble men!

Un. Certainly; but, although they received their fortunes and titles from ancestry or from the king, they must have received their real nobility from their Creator.

Wm. Is it possible, Uncle, that this lying woman and impudent man could make people believe them?

Un. Yes. It is recorded, and it is undoubted, that this Sarah Wilson, now become familiar with

deceit and crime, (for it is the nature of guilt, my children, to strengthen by practice, one crime leading to another,) it is certain that this woman was received and entertained in Virginia, and in both the Carolinas, as a princess; that she imitated the manners she had seen at court, and although she received presents and borrowed money from the gentlemen she imposed upon, she affected the state of royalty, and graciously extended her hand to be kissed by her visiters. In the colonies at that time, you must remember that the people received their rulers from England; those who desired offices of trust and profit looked to England for them; they called England, *home*, as if America was only a place of exile; they had the prejudices in favour of hereditary monarchy and nobility belonging to the country their fathers came from; they were told by every act of the *mother country* that they were dependant and inferiour; and some, at this time, seemed to believe that they were debased by their situation. It is hardly yet believed by some among us, that a plain honest democrat without title can be equal to a titulary European.

Wm. And did people really kiss the hand of this lying woman—this thief?

Un. Sarah Wilson and Tom Bell, having digested their plan of operations, separated for a time, to put it in execution. It was necessary that he should appear as a gentleman, and at that time the apparel of a gentleman was very costly. He must have a wig, which must be dressed every day; he must have several suits of apparel, of cloth, silk, or velvet, trimmed with gold or silver lace; silk stockings; gold or paste knee and shoe buckles; a gold laced hat, and a sword with a richly ornamented hilt. All this, Tom was obliged to purchase, and, moreover, several negroes to attend him.

and the pretended princess. She made her appearance at the head inn of one of the principal towns of Virginia, in the dress and character of a great English lady, who was to be joined in a few days by a gentleman of distinction; he arrived, the honourable Mr. Sothway; curiosity was excited, and the story of the princess and her betrothed lover was buzzed abroad. She was waited upon; confided her pretended history to those who were eager to hear it. She told her visiters that she had assurances from *home*, that all the indiscretion of her flight was forgiven; a ship of war was to be sent for her; and on her return to St. James', her marriage would take place as soon as the honourable Mr. Edward Sothway had been elevated to the peerage. Hints, however, were given that funds ran low; but great remittances were expected. Those who kissed the royal hand of the princess, were promised governments, and other high offices, if civilians; if military men, promotion in the army; if in the navy, ships. Any sums her "royal highness" required were forthcoming; all was in train, and the capital laid out in clothes, equipage, and attendants was likely to be returned with usurious interest. She was received, says a printed account, as "a sprig of royalty" from house to house, and condescendingly permitted the masters to kiss her hand. They entertained her with honours, and she repaid the honours with compliments, and the cash with promises. So stood affairs when, one day, the princess's betrothed, with the usual ceremony, requested a private interview; (for Tom was kept at most respectful distance;) and the reque being granted, he exhibited a newspaper to her ro al highness with the following advertisement:

"*Bush Creek*, Frederick County, Maryland, C

tober 11*th*, 1771. Run away from the subscriber, a convict servant maid, named Sarah Wilson, but has changed her name to lady Susannah Carolina Matilda, which made the publick believe that she was his majesty's sister. She has a blemish over the right eye, dark rolled hair, stoops in the shoulders, makes a common practice of writing and marking her clothes with a crown and a *B*. Whoever secures the said servant woman, or takes her home, shall receive five pistoles, besides all costs and charges. Wm. Duval. I entitle Michael Dalton to search the city of Philadelphia, and from thence to Charlestown, for the said woman. Wm. Duval.

You, John, will remark that this is very badly written.

Mary. What is meant by rolled hair, Uncle?

Un. In those days, ladies wore what were called *rolls*, or sometimes *cushions*, over which to a considerable (and ofttimes to a preposterous) height, the hair was combed and fastened with wire pins. It has appeared to me that in this headdress, the artful woman might have concealed the jewels she brought away with her.

John. Well, sir, was she seized in consequence of this advertisement?

Un. Tom Bell secured the only paper that had found its way into that part of Virginia. But the confederates thought it was time to move farther from Philadelphia, where the advertisement was published. They pretended a journey to the north, and took leave as for a few days of their dupes; but soon separated; and by concert met again in South Carolina, where they played over the same game with equal success. She, however, changing her title to the "Princess Augusta de Waldegrave." Dalton, however, pursued them; and Tom, hearing

of his arrival at Charlestown, robbed the princes and left her to be claimed as a runaway convic and conveyed ignominiously back to Maryland.

Mary. And is this the end of Sarah Wilson story, Uncle?

Un. No. For in the year 1773, I find her in Ne York; but that must serve for another story. Whe we meet again, we must go on with the history o publick men and publick events.

Phil. But do tell us, sir, what became of Tor Bell.

Un. Another time. We shall meet Tom agai

CHAPTER VII.

Un. Now, children, let us proceed. We left of at the death of Sir Danvers Osborne in that mos fearful manner, by self-murder; and as Governo Clinton had made Chief-Justice Delancey lieutenan governor, he of course was the ruler of the provinc after the death of Osborne. What followed?

John. Uncle Philip then told us of the Frenc war.

Un. I will here give you my knowledge of th origin of this war of 1754. It was a war to pro tect English traders who had a fort on the Ohi which the French seized, and otherwise infringe the right which England claimed, to supply th Indians with British manufactures. The Englis likewise quarrelled with the French about the lim its of Canada, (then, you know, a French province and the limits of Nova Scotia, belonging to Eng land. In this war the Americans were involve and suffered. After Braddock's defeat in 1755, th French and Indians attacked the frontiers of th

colonies. The Americans had to raise soldiers to the amount of twenty-four thousand men or more.

John. Uncle Philip told us of a meeting of the governors of the provinces at Albany, and that a plan was proposed by Doctor Franklin for joining the colonies together; and that the Americans rejected the plan, because it would give too much power to the king of England; and that the English did not like it, because the king thought it would give too much power to the Americans. Now, sir, I do not understand this.

Un. There is no possibility for you to understand the cause of difference between this country and England without speaking to you of taxes and taxation. Doctor Franklin says, that a plan was proposed at that meeting of governors at Albany, by which *they*, the governors of the colonies should assemble, in case of war, and levy troops, build forts, and provide military stores; and for the expense of all these preparations draw upon England for the money, making themselves debtors for the amount, to be repaid, by money raised *in the colonies* from a *general tax*, to be laid on them by *act of parliament*. This, you see, was granting to England the right to tax the colonies for defending themselves against the enemy raised up by quarrels not of her own, but originating in Europe. Even then, Dr. Franklin tells us, that the general opinion in America was, that England had no right to tax Americans, nor could constitutionally do it; because, the colonies were not represented *there*. Now remember this; for it was the cause of the war we are coming to. And it was the cause that the plan offered at Albany was objected to by Americans. They were represented in their own assemblies, and those assemblies granted the money wanted for defence or other purposes.

John. Uncle Philip told us that the French tablished military posts from their province of ada to Detroit, and seemed to intend a line of to their province of Louisiana.

Un. I believe that was the great plan o French politicians; and then, you see by the m that they would have had the greatest part of w is now the United States, besides the great coun that England *now* owns. It was in resisting th encroachments that the English and provincials s tained so many losses; until the battle of the pla of Abraham, when Wolfe succeeded in defeati Montcalm, and then Canada, and all the Fren posts remained in the possession of England; a in consequence of the success of the colonies in war with England, to which we are slowly proaching, Independent America extends to South Sea, and to the Gulf of Mexico. Now go

John. In the year 1755, the same year in wh Braddock was defeated, Sir Charles Hardy came governor of New York. I believe he did nothi

Un. He was unfit for governor, but he suffe himself to be guided by Mr. Delancey, the ch justice, who ruled before he came, and again af he hoisted his admiral's flag, and departed: for was a mere sailor.

John. It seems to me, sir, that the English thou anybody might be a governor here.

Un. I don't wonder that such an opinion g erally prevailed, when so great a man as L Chatham said in parliament, that "there was no company of English foot-soldiers sent to Amer but could furnish a man fit to govern a colony."

John. Did Lord Chatham say so?

Un. I am not certain of the very words, but did give such an opinion ten years after Admi *Hardy* was governor of New York. In Ju

1757, Sir Charles departed and left the government of New York to the American Lieutenant-governor Delancey, who, in fact, governed both province and governor before. On the death of this gentleman, in July, 1759, Doctor Cadwallader Colden, who was president of the council, succeeded to the administration of the government by virtue of that office; and two years after, that is, the 17th July, 1761, the old gentleman managed, very much against the wishes of the people, to procure the commission of lieutenant-governor from England.

John. I remember, about this time, New York and New Hampshire quarrelled about that country which is now the state of Vermont, and the people who purchased their land of New Hampshire seized upon it by force.

Us. Yes; Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire, notwithstanding that he had agreed to refer the dispute to the king, and notwithstanding that the king had decided as was just, that the province of New York extended to Connecticut river, yet he sold or made grants of this land, and if the great quarrel between all the colonies and Great Britain had not come on, there would have been war between these settlers on the disputed land, and the government of New York.

John. There was, sir, almost. For the sheriff and his officers had to fire on the men who took possession of a courthouse and prevented the judges from holding court; and the New Hampshire men were headed by Ethan Allen, a desperate kind of man, and Seth Warner; and the governor of New York offered a reward for the seizing of these men, and some others.

Us. Your memory is good. These troubles were forgotten, and the men from New Hampshire were left to govern themselves in this part of the

but fearing more white men might ar
fled without killing him.

Mary. And the wounded boy, and

Un. The account says nothing of
may suppose that they crawled off, w
Gardner was fighting.

John. And he, sir— ?

Un. When he recovered from th
dered, covered with blood—hardly kn
did, he dragged himself painfully to
his friends; and did not know, it is
count, that he had been scalped by his

Mary. What is scalping ?

John. I have read that it was done

Un. Yes. The Indians wore, wh
to war, one lock of hair only, the rest
that one was left, as if in defiance of t
as much as to say, "scalp me if yo
Indian scalped an Indian, he lifted u
flesh on the top of the head, by this
and with his knife made an incision q
scull; this being done, he tore off
circle. If he scalped a white person
of the hair, gathered up in his hand,
in the same way, to perform the oper

Mary. Oh, horrible! I am glad wh
did so.

Un. I wish I could say that they
aged the barbarous practice, or even
not in some instances practise it then
would have you know the truth, child

John. The French used to join wit
dress like them, imitate them in their
fare, and even in this savage way o
trophies of their success.

Un. My children, Englishmen h
same, and Americans are not free fro

hidden enemy, even before the sound reached them from the explosion of the powder, or any warning from the fearful yell. Thus, in the day, they pursued their labour in fear, and at night, slept the broken slumber of those who know they may be awakened by the flames of their houses or the shrieks of their wives and children. One occurrence at Kinderhook, is recorded as happening a short time before the cessation of hostilities. Four white men, two boys, and a negro, having their firearms near them, were hoeing corn, when six Indians and a Frenchman got near enough, unperceived, to fire on them. You must remember that in those days the country was covered with woods, and the cornfield might be in what was called a *clearing;* an open space cleared of all but stumps, and surrounded by a thicket.

Mary. And did they kill the boys, Uncle?

Un. They, perhaps, fired at too great distance, for they only wounded one white man and one boy. The negro, the unwounded boy, and the two other men, threw down their hoes and ran off. But one man, of more courage, instead of flying for safety bethought him of the loaded guns brought for defence. He ran to the place where they had deposited their fire-arms. This man's name was *Gardner.*

Wm. He was a fine fellow.

Un. The Indians and the Frenchman seeing but one man on his feet, advanced from their hiding place; and Gardner had fair aim at an Indian, and shot him down—he seized a second gun, and a second Indian fell—a third gun was already raised, when an Indian sprang on him, before he could discharge it, and, at the same time, the Frenchman struck Gardner with his musket and knocked him down. While he was insensible, from the blow he had received, the Indian drew his knife and scalped him;

but fearing more white men might arrive, the pa
fled without killing him.

Mary. And the wounded boy, and man—?

Un. The account says nothing of them; but
may suppose that they crawled off, while the br
Gardner was fighting.

John. And he, sir—?

Un. When he recovered from the blow, be
dered, covered with blood—hardly knowing what
did, he dragged himself painfully to the house
his friends; and did not know, it is said in the
count, that he had been scalped by his savage ene

Mary. What is scalping?

John. I have read that it was done very quick

Un. Yes. The Indians wore, when they w
to war, one lock of hair only, the rest being cut
that one was left, as if in defiance of their enemi
as much as to say, "scalp me if you can." If
Indian scalped an Indian, he lifted up the skin
flesh on the top of the head, by this defiance-lo
and with his knife made an incision quite round
scull; this being done, he tore off all within
circle. If he scalped a white person, he took h
of the hair, gathered up in his hand, and proceed
in the same way, to perform the operation.

Mary. Oh, horrible! I am glad white folks ne
did so.

Un. I wish I could say that they never enco
aged the barbarous practice, or even that they
not in some instances practise it themselves; bu
would have you know the truth, children.

John. The French used to join with the India
dress like them, imitate them in their mode of w
fare, and even in this savage way of carrying
trophies of their success.

Un. My children, Englishmen have done
same, and Americans are not free from the char

s only justifiable in defence of life and liberty; en then, its consequences on those who are ed in it, unless of very superiour moral worth, l: hardening the heart, and leading to licen- ss. Even great commanders, governors, and ien, have encouraged this barbarous mode of e by giving rewards for scalps, as evidences th inflicted on the enemy. It was customary e French rulers of Canada to do so; and I have my pocketbook a memorandum which brings arge nearer home; here it is: I will read it —"July 7th, 1764. The Governor of Penn- ia offers for the *scalp* of every male Indian above the age of ten years, one hundred and our dollars; and for the scalp of every FEMALE *enemy*, above the age of ten years, produced vidence of their being killed, the sum of fifty of eight."

s. Surely, sir, we should not do so now.

I hope not; those *good old times*, as some call them, are past. Here is a memorandum may serve to change the subject: "May 16th, King's College received a donation of twelve ed volumes, from Doctor Bristow of England."

s. Some good things did come from England.

Many! many! my boy. Those notions of iment, law, liberty, and right, which bless us, rought hither by the *republicans* of England, ould not fully enjoy them at home. Litera- rts, science, philosophy, and religion, came from England. The poets, philosophers, and s of England, were the countrymen and bro- of our English parents. And though, as it seem, the rulers of England for a time for- s—we never forgot it; and the blessings our brought with them, they were determined to *re for us.* Here is another memorandum—

"At the commencement of King's Coll
23d, 1763, Messrs. Depeyster, Cuyler, V
Livingston, Watts, Bayard, Wilkins, Hof
Marston, took degrees. These are nam
education has preserved among the *honou*
day." I will show you one more adv
from among the many that I have copied,
go to the consideration of the causes, a
commencement, of that war which severe
Great Britain. You may read my memo

John. "To be let, the play-house, at
end of Beekman street, very convenient f
being upwards of ninety feet in length, nig
wide. Inquire of William Beekman. A
1764. The next year, during the excitem
by the stamp act, a mob tore this building
situation was a little below the junction
and Beekman streets, on the south or soutl
of the latter. Its demolition was principa
plished by boys, set on by men; one of
is now living, (1836,) and he was the o
injured on the occasion."

Un. He had his scull fractured, whic
thing I know to the contrary, improved h
and prolonged his life. When we meet a
endeavour to make plain to you, the ca
war between America and Great Britain
we are now fast approaching.

John. What, the stamp act?

Un. We must talk of some things
stamp act.

Wm. And before Captain Sear's time?

Un. No. For to give you a just noti
tain Isaac Sears, I must tell you who h
what he did before the time of the stam
to-morrow I will begin with King Sear

CHAPTER IX.

Un. In our last walk to the Battery, I promised, in passing through Broad street, to give you an idea of the appearance of that place in former times; here is a picture of some of the houses near Flattenbarick hill.

Mary. I should not think of Broad street when looking at this picture.

John. Thank you, sir.

Wm. You promised to tell us about Captain Sears, Uncle.

Un. Mr. Sears is first mentioned as a captain of a trading-vessel; but appears to have commanded a privateer, sailing out of the port of New York, in 1759. I would here remark that at one period twenty such armed vessels belonged to that port, when *Philadelphia* and Boston, each fitted out but one

This may prove the greater commerce of New Yo
at the period; whether it is a proof of the grea
morality of the place may at least be doubted.

John. I should like to know your opinion,
of privateering.

Un. Theoretically I condemn it, and place a p
vateersman very little higher in a moral scale th
a pirate. But practically he may be a gallant
triot, or a detestable sea-robber, according to
cumstances. I will endeavour to convey my me
ing by stating cases. When the American co
nies entered into warfare with a powerful nati
capable, as Lord Chatham said, "to crush them
atoms;" and that nation had a great navy and Am
ica had none;—when that nation by means of sh
of war, and innumerable transports and store-shi
poured her armies on the country and supplied th
by sea with reinforcements, and provisions; th
to fit out a privateer, and to command or sail in o
might well be deemed the act of a patriot. I
when two nations, each having navies, carry on w
upon the ocean, a private armed ship fitted out
a citizen of either, to prey upon unarmed vesse
or traders who merely arm in self-defence, appe
to me little better than a pirate. In the grea
number of instances privateering is practised w
a view alone to plunder. Yet, as it is sanction
by the custom of nations, we must not judge
harshly of those who have practised this mode
obtaining wealth by seizing it forcibly from the
fenceless.

John. I see, sir, you have not an exalted opini
of privateersmen.

Un. Not very, I must confess. I detest all w
except for defence, and the privateersman's is ge
rally an offensive one, and for gain alone. To
turn to Captain Isaac Sears: he had been a

commander and a trader; when war occurred between England and France, his business as a peaceable sailor was interrupted: the war against the colonies was aggressive. He might think that to inflict injury on Frenchmen was meritorious; and certainly when in presence of a French ship of superiour force to his own sloop, the *Belle Isle*, he acted like a brave captain and gallant seaman.

Wm. O, tell us of the battle, Uncle.

Un. In September, 1759, as he was cruising with his sloop the *Belle Isle*, of ten guns, well manned, he fell in with a large French ship of twenty-four guns, and eighty men, and attacked her without hesitation. They cannonaded each other for two hours, when the Belle Isle was obliged to withdraw to refit, having had three men wounded, and several shots between wind and water; that is, when the cannon balls make holes in the vessel which let the sea pour in, and in this case the American sloop had already three feet water in the hold.

John. It was time to withdraw.

Un. But Captain Sears did not *give up.* While he repaired his vessel by stopping the leaks and mending his rigging, the French ship made off; at six in the evening the *Belle Isle* was in state to give chase, and he pursued the ship all night. In the morning the privateer came up with her intended prize, and Sears prepared his men to lay her alongside and board; but the Frenchman by a lucky shot carried away the wheel, by which, you know, the helmsman manages the rudder; of course the *Belle Isle* was again disabled. Sears, however, soon got a tiller—you know what a tiller is, boys?

Wm. What they move the rudder with.

Un. He got a tiller rigged in the cabin, so that he commanded his sloop again, and then, in spite of her heavy cannonade, he clapped the French ship

aboard, and grappled her by the main shrouds. Thus they lay side by side—the privateer's men trying to gain the ship's deck, and her crew, more numerous, driving them back. Several times the Americans were upon the Frenchman's gunnel but were beat back by bayonets and lances. At length the grappling being cut, or giving way the little sloop sheered off, having nine men killed and twenty-two wounded, of whom, two died of their wounds. The shrouds of the *Belle Isle* had been cut away, and the boltsprit disabled, so that she was unmanageable until again repaired. Her antagonist, though crippled, made off, and before Sears was in condition to renew the fight, a gale sprung up which effectually separated the vessels and the privateer with difficulty got into Newfoundland, where she refitted for another cruise.

Wm. Well done, brave Captain Sears!

John. And no doubt many men killed and crippled on board the French ship, who only fought in her own defence. And what a scene of blood on board the sloop! nine men dead; twenty-two groaning in agony—two dying!

Mary. O terrible! I don't want to hear such stories.

Un. Alas, my little girl, then you must not hear of war.

Wm. Brave Captain Sears! I hope he had better luck with other ships.

Un. I presume he had, yet I know he had some hardships and losses subsequent to this sea-fight for on the 22d of September, 1761, he returned home from a voyage after having been shipwrecked on the Isle of Sables, and losing all except his life and the lives of his crew; but in a few years after I find him as a merchant in New York, and with the office of inspector of potash. But now, as

e had fighting enough for the present, I will eavour to give you a clear view of the causes he war of 1776.

ohn. If you please, sir.

In. The first Englishmen who came to live his country, left their native homes that they ght enjoy the liberty of worshipping according the dictates of their consciences, and making s for their own government; or for bettering r condition by trade or otherwise. You all unstand that the continent was in possession of se savage or wild people we call Indians when visited by Europeans. The navigators of dift nt nations discovered different parts of the coast, claimed each for his own country the right to le on *that* part; and the right to purchase the l from the natives. Thus the French claimed right to buy or conquer Canada on the north Louisiana on the south; while the English med the same privilege for New England on east and Virginia on the south; and the Dutch Nieuw Nederlandt, extending from Delaware to Connecticut river. They did not pretend this land was their property, but that they had only right to buy it of the original owners.

ohn. I think I understand this better than I did re.

In. The sovereigns of the European nations e gifts, or grants, or sales, to individuals; ding the land so claimed by the nation; and these viduals then claimed the right to trade and buy of the natives. Thus, for example, Lord Balti- e became proprietor of Maryland; William n owned Pennsylvania; the Duke of York r *conquest* [illegible] the English) claimed Nieuw rlandt; and [illegible] Carterets, by grant from th , were the proprietors of East Jersey.

English colonists who settled in this wild country underwent wonderful hardships, and had to defend themselves against the natives when quarrels happened; and while they were poor and struggling for existence the government of England let them alone—"they grew by her neglect." When they became rich enough to exchange their commodities for goods manufactured in England, she was not satisfied with the benefit of the commerce, but having by degrees established governors and other officers over the colonies, she sent out collectors of revenue, opened custom-houses, and laid duties on the goods she sold, and if she permitted the colonists to buy of other nations, taxed such goods still higher.

Wm. What right had England to do this? I would not have allowed it.

Un. The colonies thought proper to submit, because they were weak—the weak, in old times, submitted to the strong, as well as in modern days.

John. I understand, sir, that the colonies were governed in various ways; some governors appointed by the proprietors, and some by the king.

Un. New York, under the Dutch, was governed by directors-general, who were little more at first than agents for traders, and afterward for the Dutch West India Company. When the English conquered it, the king, as you remember, gave it to his brother James, Duke of York, who appointed governors; one governor serving for New York and New Jersey, after the division took place. When James succeeded his brother on the throne, New York became a king's government, and in 1688 *went with* the kingdom of England to William of *Nassau* and his successors.

John. William the Third, sir.

Un. Yes. As I have said, by degrees, Eng-

mposed duties on articles imported into the colo-ies, and they submitted. But the impositions *grew;* nd as the colonies *grew* they became discontented. ndividuals practised smuggling—that is, they con-rived ways to land goods without the knowledge of he English collectors, and by avoiding to pay the du-es which were to go to the government of a distant ountry, they increased their profits, and some made reat fortunes. Smuggling was not considered infa-ious, as it is now, and must be always when duties re laid on importations by the people themselves, for heir own purposes. It was thought of only as an vasion of a burden imposed by a foreign government; ubmitted to by a kind of compromise from neces-ity. This practice of smuggling was of course omplained of by the English collectors, and the ing's ministry ordered their armed vessels in great-r numbers to cruise upon our coast, and commis-ioned their commanders as custom-house officers. These men were rapacious, and under colour of zeal or his majesty's service, they vexed the commerce f the country by seizures that were illegal, and for which no redress could be obtained but by applica-ion to a distant country, more injurious to the suf-erer than the original wrong.

John. This must have irritated the people, sir.

Un. It did. And it caused the serious and cool o think of remedies for the future. In addition to he vexation from illegal seizures, was the insolence f English navy-officers, and the encouragement iven to informers.

John. What is your opinion of informers, sir?

Un. When, as in the United States, the laws are ade by the people, and for their own good, to in-rm *against* any breach of them, is meritorious. t at the time we are speaking of, it was felt tha revenue laws were made for the benefit of othe

and that an informer could only be actuated by hope of reward, for an injury inflicted on an Am can, and a benefit bestowed on a foreigner. T consequence was the introduction of the vile pr tice of tarring and feathering, by mobs impelled revenge injuries for which there was no legal re edy. Where is little Mary?

Mary. I am feeding the canary bird.

Un. Come here, I am going to tell a story.

John. But, sir, the revenue officers appointed England for the colonies were not all bad men.

Un. Far from it, my son. They acted proba in most cases conscientiously; that is, according their judgment. Some of them we know were g men. I find the names of Lambert Moore of N York, and John Barberie of Perth Amboy, anne to advertisements threatening smugglers; and J John Temple, and the amiable Andrew Elliot, w receivers of his majesty's customs. But these g tlemen felt as Englishmen, not as Americans.

Phil. Uncle, what story are you going to tell

Un. I will refer to my memoranda for a tale the consequences of these restrictions upon Am can commerce for the benefit of England. Read

John. "Kelly, an oysterman, and Kitchener tavern keeper, having informed against the mate a vessel who had invested the savings of his wag in a few casks of wine, and had secretly landed the the populace of New York, after a long search, (the informers secreted themselves,) seized both t poor wretches, bound them with cords, placed th in carts, and paraded them through a great part the city; 'many thousands attending them with sults, huzzas, and sprinkling of tar and feathe 'They besmeared their faces and clothes with and showered feathers on them,' says another w The magistrates in vain interposed; these wr

men were not released 'until the populace had in some measure satiated their resentment.'"

Un. This, as you see, happened in New York; and about the same time, in Newport, Rhode Island, the people seized a man for a similar offence, and after ducking him, they set him in the pillory, besmeared him with tar and poured feathers over him. The writer says, that the inhabitants "expressed their satisfaction at seeing a people so justly sensible of the injury that such a detestable wretch must be to the *traders* of this place." And here is a memorandum of what happened at Boston about the same time. Read it, John.

John. I thought the Boston folks would not be behindhand in showing their uneasiness under impositions, restraints, and injuries inflicted by the country that drove their fathers from home, to seek a dwelling on the rocks of Plymouth. "A person who arrived at Boston from Rhode Island, having informed the custom-house officers, that the sloop in which he came, had a cask or two of wine in her, and caused her seizure, was himself seized by the populace, placed in a cart, stript, 'and his naked skin well tarred and feathered.' 'He was carried from the town hall to the liberty tree, bearing in his hand a large lanthorn, that people might see the doleful condition he was in.'"

Wm. Had they liberty poles then?

Un. I should have informed you that this was after the repeal of the stamp act, but I have mentioned these tarrings and featherings all together as proceeding from another cause.

John. Pray, sir, was this strange mode of punishing invented in America?

Un. No. The first instance that I have met with, was *inflicted* by order of Richard Cœur de Lion upon a crusader, convicted of theft. You will f

it in Michaud's History of the Crusades, in French if I recollect aright, it took place on ship-board and the head of the man was shaved, the tar poured on it, and then feathers strewed over the tar.

Wm. So, what was invented by a king was practised by a mob.

Un. Another source of irritation was the conduct of English men-of-war when in our harbours; they required of all the sloops and boats that passed them to strike their colours, as if in token of servitude; and an instance is on record of a ship of war, anchored in this harbour, firing a cannon ball into the pleasure-boat of a gentleman going from Whitehall to Elizabethtown with his friends, his wife, and his children, because this ceremony happened to be neglected. The ball struck the nurse, who had an infant in her arms, and instantly killed her. The gentleman, Mr. Ricketts, immediately returned to New York and complained; the coroner pronounced it a case of murder: but no redress could be obtained short of an application to Great Britain; for the governor of the province by his commission was prohibited from all jurisdiction in any of the harbours, bays, &c. Thus an insolent officer on ship-board, or a drunken sailor, might sink a boat traversing our harbour for business or pleasure, sacrifice the lives of men or women, and the murderer could only be punished or called to an account three thousand miles off.

Wm. And did Americans bear all this?

Un. No, my boy, we shall see that they did not; but the time had not yet arrived. At the period of which we speak other grievances were goading the people to madness; and the rulers in Great Britain at the same time accused America of ingratitude, and talked of favours bestowed upon her. In addition to the insolence of the officers and soldi-

hrough the country, (governors and revenue in our seaports, custom-house officers on nd on ship-board,) we had to suffer the out- impressment, or resist at the peril of life. e that an act of parliament had been passed xth year of the reign of Queen Anne, (1707,) :h, for the encouragement of trade in Amer- as enacted that "no person serving as a mar- board any privateer or trading vessel should essed, unless such person shall have desert- a ship of war." I find this act of parliament by the inhabitants of Boston, in town-meet- ne, 1768, in consequence of an attempt to ien for an English ship of war. The in- ts looked to the English governor, Bernard, ess; and he answered, as if ignorant of the that it was the custom at *home*, and he could rfere.

A pretty fellow for a governor, if he did w of the existence of laws made on purpose place he was sent to govern!

Always let us remember, my good boy, that at Mr. Pitt, Lord Chatham, as I said before, y repeat again, gave as his opinion that "no y of foot-soldiers sent by his majesty to Ameri- could furnish a man fit for the governor of a " But before this affair at Boston, which was), and even before the stamp act, I find it re- that "four fishermen, who supplied the New market, in the month of June, 1764, were by a press-gang in the harbour and carried d a tender, to be taken to Halifax for his 's service." But the captain of the tender, rant as Governor Bernard or any other colo- *ernor, thinking* that he had done his duty, *ier not knowing* that the people of the town d *the fate* of their fishermen, or, perhaps,

little dreaming that they would dare oppose his
jesty's officer,) went on shore in his barge with
usual man-of-war imposing appearance. But
sooner had he landed, than the populace (I will
call them mob) seized the boat, without offering
injury to the captain or crew. The gallant off
found that he was off (if not out of) his element,
offered to restore the fishermen. But the pe
were now *up*, and away they went with the ba
The officer, probably by the advice of some ge
men of the town, repaired to the coffee-house
wrote an order for the release of the impressed m
which was delivered to some one present, an
party went from the coffee-house, took a boat, bo
ed the tender with the captain's order, and retur
in triumph with the four prisoners.

Wm. I dare say Captain Isaac Sears was of
party.

Un. It may be; or Alexander McDougal,
some other spirited patriot.

Phil. What became of the barge, Uncle?

Un. While this peaceable transaction was go
on at the coffee-house, which was near the bot
of Wall street, the people had dragged the boa
the green in the fields, where the park is now,
there they kindled a fire and burnt her. The
gistrates met, but before they could interfere
poor barge was sacrificed to liberty. In the a
noon the court assembled to take cognizance of
affair; "but," says the record, "they were not abl
discover any of the persons concerned in the mischi

Phil. I guess the English men-of-war did
think of pressing men in our harbour after that.

Un. But they did though. However, they
clear of the shore. On the 24th of April, 1764,
ship Prince George arrived from Bristol, and
ing that there was a man-of-war in the ha

they took the command of the vessel from the officers, (probably with the captain's consent,) and steered up our beautiful bay, prepared to resist any attempt to enslave them. As they expected, off came a boat, strongly manned from the Garland man-of-war, and soon came along side the merchantman, thinking to board, but they found the crew armed and forbidding the visit. The officer's orders were disregarded, and his efforts to gain the deck in vain; he and his men were beat off, while the *Prince* pursued her way. Seeing this opposition to his gracious majesty's pleasure, the captain of the Garland fired on the merchantman, and sent another boat to aid the first; but the rebellious sailors kept on their way, and the baffled press-gangs returned, after following almost to the wharves of the town, where they saw indications of a reception that induced them rather to brave the frowns of the disappointed captain of the Garland. But the affair in Boston harbour was one of more consequence, and resistance was there made which terminated in death to one of the invaders of the people's rights. An attempt ensued, on the part of the English officers of government on shore, to sanction the invasion and punish the legal and authorized defenders of their liberty, by the sentence due to murderers. This happened in 1769, and although after the excitements occasioned by the stamp act, I tell it to you now in connexion with similar events at New York.

John. Please, sir, go on. We shall understand all the evils that the Americans suffered from this particular cause the better.

Un. That is what I wish. Mr. John Adams, then a young lawyer, and long the friend and servant of his country, has recorded the transaction in a letter to the Rev. Doctor Morse. A lieutenant, a midshipman and a press-gang were sent from an English frig

called the Rose, lying in Boston harbour, as
Garland did in that of New York, to board a s
coming in from the sea. This was an Ameri
vessél, and they boarded her and ordered all
crew to appear on deck. The lieutenant doubt
that all were before him, ordered a search, and
midshipman and gang found four men in "the
peak." These Americans seeing their invad
armed with pistols and cutlasses, gave them wa
ing by their spokesman, Michael Corbett, that t
would resist—it was in vain; pistols were fired,
Lieutenant Panton fell dead, shot by the man w
had warned him to desist from the attempt. A
inforcement was sent for from the frigate, the f
American seamen were overpowered and made p
oners, one of them bleeding from a pistol ball. A
cial Court of Admiralty was called to try these f
American seamen for piracy and murder. All
great officers of Great Britain were arrayed aga
them: the governors of Massachusetts and N
Hampshire, Bernard and Wentworth; with Au
muty, judge of admiralty; the commodore of
station, Hood; the noted Hutchinson; and coun
lors from several provinces. Some patriotic lawy
volunteered to defend them, and John Adams st
ready with the book of the statutes at large, sh
ing, by the act of parliament above mentioned,
the assault on these men was illegal and the kill
Panton justifiable. But the court seemed afraid
the trial, although apparently ignorant of the
relative to impressments in America. They
journed, again and again—held secret concla
and at length the prisoners were placed at the
The facts were stated by the English sailors,
were not denied by the Americans. Mr. Ad
stood ready to produce the statute of Anne, ex
ly prohibiting the impressment of seamen in

ica. He told the court that the action of killing Lieutenant Panton could only be construed into justifiable homicide. At these words, Hutchinson again started up and moved that the prisoners be remanded; the court adjourned to the council room, sat all that day, and the next the prisoners were again brought to the bar. The town and the country rushed around the court, and when the excited multitude expected the solemn trial to proceed, Bernard arose, and pronounced that the opinion of the court was, that the act amounted only to justifiable homicide. Auchmuty said such was the unanimous opinion of the court. The prisoners were pronounced to be acquitted, and accordingly discharged. Such was the conduct of the officers of Great Britain in the colonies both before and after the passing and repeal of the stamp act.

John. You have told us, sir, that the colonists seemed content to submit to the English laws regulating their trade, and to paying duties on the goods they imported; what occasioned England to lay on the additional tax by the stamp act? And what greater objections had America to that than to the paying duties on imported goods?

Un. As to the first question, it seemed that England considered the colonies as her property. Englishmen did not speak of Americans as "*our fellow subjects*," but as *our* colonists. The parliament looked only to America with a view to raising money. On the 10th of March they laid heavy duties on articles imported by the colonists from the West Indies, and resolved upon imposing stamp duties; and the March following, in 1765, they passed the stamp act. To this all America rose up in opposition as one man. It had no advocates but the king's governors, their tools, and the officers appointed to receive and deal out the stamps; and they wer

afraid to receive them, or were obliged to renounce their appointments. You ask me why the people who submitted to duties on the goods they imported, should resist this act. As I have said, they in their weakness submitted to necessity, and said, "we can avoid paying these duties, unless we can afford, and choose, to buy the articles imported. They are not absolutely necessary to life, and if we pay these external taxes to Great Britain, it is only paying so much more for luxuries. But to pay for stamps to render valid every legal proceeding, every bill of sale and receipt, every license for marriage, and every will of the dying, is paying an internal tax; such a tax there is no avoiding; and internal taxation once begun, will be continued. Our property may be taken from us without our consent, and that is not only contrary to every principle of good government, but of natural justice, and violates at once and totally our rights as English subjects; who are never taxed but by their own consent given by their representatives. Now, as we cannot be represented in England, we are represented in our assemblies, and when *they* impose taxes, either for our own affairs, or to comply with any requisition from England, it is our own grant; but to be taxed at the will of an English parliament reduces us to positive slavery."

John. Was not this the truth, sir?

Un. I think so—and so all America thought. Now we will see how this act was received in New York. It was passed in March, and as early as April it was hawked about the streets of our city, with this title, "The folly of England and the ruin of America."

Wm. Uncle Philip mentioned *that*, and he said *that a congress* of many of the people met in N*York to talk* about the stamp act, and to deter

what was to be done; and that men were sent to that congress from, I believe, all the colonies.

Un. This congress of deputies from nine of the colonies met in New York, October, 1765. Before their meeting, the legislature of Massachusetts had echoed the words of James Otis, solemnly denying the right of parliament to tax the colonies; and Virginia had repeated the same. All the lawyers of the supreme court of New Jersey, held at Perth Amboy, had declared to the chief-justice, that in their law proceedings they would not use the stamps, but rather suffer any consequences of refusal.

John. How did Governor Colden behave when this first colonial congress met at New York?

Un. The delegates from Connecticut waited upon him, and he told them that "such a congress was unconstitutional, unprecedented, and unlawful, and that he should give them no countenance."

Wm. And didn't they laugh at him?

John. I suppose, sir, that these Connecticut gentlemen waited upon him merely to show him the respect which they thought due to his office as governor of the province of New York.

Un. This congress elected Timothy Ruggles their president; but James Otis was the soul of the meeting. Their resolutions were similar to the sentiments I have given you, and these sentiments were imbodied in a very respectfully worded address, by a committee of three, two of whom were great men, Robert R. Livingston and Samuel W. Johnson. This was an address to the king.

Wm. Uncle Philip told us that the people of New York made Mr. McEvers give up his commission, or appointment, for selling the stamps, and that Mr. Colden took possession of them.

Un. He had them brought to the fort. This enraged the people, who disliked him very much before

and, as you know, they showed their resentment pr
ty violently. You are now older than when n
brother talked to you on this subject, and as it is o
particularly belonging to New York, I will gi
you a more minute account of the transactions
our city on the memorable first of November, 17
the day on which the stamp act was to have tak
effect, which would have opened the way for th
system of internal taxation the parliament of Gr
Britain had declared they had a right to impo
upon their colonists.

John. Do, sir, if you please; for I wish to kn
all about my native city, and I cannot find any bo
to inform me.

Un. We know that even at that early period Ne
York was of considerable importance in the ey
of the English ministry, and was looked *up to*, in
commercial point of view, by the neighbouring c
onies. There was a military force kept up ther
it was the head-quarters of his majesty's Americ
army. The fort was a place of some strength; a
in the harbour were several men-of-war. Oppo
tion to the distribution of stamps, it was know
would be made, and preparations for their securi
seem to have been concerted between Governor C
den and the officers of the land and sea forces. O
the 23d of October, the stamped paper arrived
one of the London ships, commanded by Capta
Davis. Immediately on the arrival of these impo
ant papers, they were placed for safe-keeping
board one of the ships of war in the harbour.
McEvers, the stamp officer, was afraid to touch the
they were landed with due precaution, and receiv
by Colden in the fort, where, you know, he reside

Phil. We know—the fort was on high groun
between the Bowling Green and the Battery.

Un. The fort had been repaired by order of

den, ammunition accumulated, and guns mounted, as if to intimidate the people. Immediately after the stamped paper was landed, handbills appeared in the streets, threatening any one who received or delivered a stamp. On the 31st of October, the merchants had a meeting, and resolved not to import goods from England.

Wm. Captain Sears was a merchant then.

Un. In the evening of that day the people assembled, and a large party or company marched through the streets to Fort George, as if to bid defiance to the governor. They paraded the streets, and when commanded by the magistrates to disperse, they refused; but did no mischief, and at their own time, quietly dispersed.

Wm. Why, Uncle, this was pretty like the beginning of war.

Un. Very like it, boy; and so were the declarations of parliament on *one side*, and of the congress that met at New York on *the other*. For the first, declared their right and intention to tax the colonies; and the second, denied that right in positive terms; and if the parliament had not repealed this act, and thereby retracted, war would have commenced ten years before it did.

John. Well, sir, what happened on the first of November?

Un. More handbills were put up next day threatening vengeance on the protectors of the stamps; and in the evening, about seven o'clock, two companies appeared who acted as if by concert.

Wm. Captain Sears was with *one*, I dare say.

Un. One company proceeded to the fields, where the park now is, (then out of town,) and they very soon *erected* a gallows, on which they hung an effigy, *previously* prepared, to represent Colden, "in his hand a stamped paper;" "at his back a drum

on his breast a label;" "by his side they hung with a boot in his hand" a figure to represent the devil. While this was going on in the open space, now the park, the other company, with another figure representing Colden, seated in a chair, carried by men, preceded and surrounded by others carrying lights, and attended by a great multitude, paraded the streets, and in this order advanced to the fort, the gates of which were shut, the sentinels placed, and the cannon on that side pointed on the town. Unfortunately for the lieutenant-governor, though he was safely ensconced within the ramparts, his coach-house and carriage were without the gates. The populace broke in, and brought forth the chariot, upon which they fixed the chair and effigy. They then proceeded with great rapidity to the fields, about the same time that the other party were preparing to move to the fort with the gallows, its appendages, and several lanterns affixed to it. When the two parties met, silence was ordered. The order was obeyed. Proclamation was made "that no stones should be thrown, no windows broken, and no injury offered to any one." Strict attention was paid to this injunction. The multitude then repaired to the fort, and found the soldiers on the rampart. They marched to the gate—knocked, and demanded admittance. This was of course refused. They then, after showing some indignities to the representative of the governor, retired to the Bowling Green, "still," says the writer, "under the muzzles of the guns."

Phil. The iron railing would prevent them from getting in.

Un. That iron fence which you have been accustomed to see was not there at this time. It was erected five years after for a purpose connected with this present excitement. The Green was then enclosed with wooden palisades, which the people tore

down, and piling them up in the centre of the Green, they kindled a fire, adding planks from the fence attached to the fort. On this pile they immolated the governor's carriage and effigies; and soon, the coach and gallows, the effigies of man and devil, were reduced to ashes. While some attended to the bonfire, others, "making a passage through the other side of the palisades," that is, up Broadway, "repaired," says the writer, "to the house lately known by the name of Vauxhall, and now in the occupation of Major James of the royal regiment of artillery." Here with the blind fury of intoxicated savages they destroyed every article of this gentleman's property they could find; books, mathematical instruments—things which men in their senses would venerate and cherish; but the people had been exasperated by expressions he had used—they were now wrought to madness, and showed by their excesses the danger of setting a mob in motion. On this occasion the inhabitants began with a degree of order to execute a preconcerted scheme of insult and defiance to a man they disliked; their numbers would be increased by idlers, vagabonds, blackguards, and thieves; and their order would terminate in brutal violence.

John. Did Mr. Colden do any thing next day, sir?

Un. Yes. Handbills appeared, dated November 2d,—this is a copy. Read it.

John. "The lieutenant-governor declares he will do nothing with the stamps, but leave it to Sir Henry Moore, to do as he pleases on his arrival." "By order of his honour. Signed, GEO. BANYAR, D. C. Coun."

Un. Mr. Moore was the new governor that was coming from England. In the next newspaper appeared the following: "The governor acquainted Judge Livingston, the Mayor, Mr. Beverly Robin

son, and Mr. John Stevens, this morning, being Monday, the 4th of November, that he would not issue, nor suffer to be issued, any of the *stamps*, now in *Fort George*." Signed, Robert R. Livingston, John Cruger, Beverly Robinson, John Stevens. Another notice appeared without any signatures: "The freemen, freeholders, and inhabitants of this city, being satisfied that the stamps are not to be issued, are determined to keep the peace of the city, at all events, except they should have other cause of complaint."

John. This, I suppose, satisfied the people.

Un. No. They declared that the stamps should "be delivered out of the fort, or they would take them away by force." So, after much negotiation, it was agreed that Captain Kennedy should be requested to take them on board his majesty's ship Coventry, and if he refused, that they should be delivered to the corporation. Kennedy declined receiving them; and they were delivered to the mayor and common council, and deposited in the city hall, in Wall street. It is said that while the people were in this commotion, the cannon on Copsey Battery, and in the king's yard, were all spiked up, as were also many belonging to the merchants, in order to prevent any use being made of them, for obtaining the stamps. Copsey Battery was below the fort, and so called as being erected on the Copsey or Capsey rocks, an Indian name.

John. Uncle Philip told us that some people who were in favour of the stamp act read a paper to the inhabitants, persuading them to put down such riotous proceedings.

Un. I do not believe, that except officers, civil *and mili*tary, and a few Englishmen, there were *any people* in favour of this detested act. Many

moderate men were opposed to, and ashamed of, the late violent proceedings.

John. But he told us that many justified them, and that Captain Sears said that *that* paper had been read to them to prevent them from getting possession of the stamped papers.

Un. I have no doubt that Mr. Sears and his associates dictated the resolutions which brought Mr. Colden to deliver up the papers as I have related to you. They had no confidence in Colden. It was known that many acts of his administration had been for selfish ends, and selfish men are never to be trusted. Even the intrigue by which he obtained his commission was known to have been founded on misrepresentation. So great was the dislike to Colden, that when, after the repeal of the stamp act, when the assembly of New York made compensation to Major James and others for property destroyed, they refused to pay Mr. Colden, though he made out his account and sent it to them. They said that what he had suffered was owing to his own misconduct.

Wm. That was right.

John. I suppose, sir, all was quiet now, for a time.

Un. In a little time, Sir Henry Moore came; he was a man of prudence, and was very well received; but in January, 1766, another parcel of these stamped papers caused another more moderate exertion of the people's power, though very decisive and summary. A party of the inhabitants went at midnight, armed, to the wharf where the brig lay, on board of which it was known stamped papers sent for New York and Connecticut had been shipped. They entered the brig, demanded the keys, struck a light, and searched until they found ten boxes filled with *these tokens of* the affection of Great Britain to *America.* They were soon removed from the brig

to a small boat, and rowed up the East river
shipyards, which were then where Catharin
now comes to the water. Here the party
open the boxes, and making a flame with sc
barrels, the stamps were added to the bonfi
their ashes distributed to the winds. This
the men returned quietly to town and dispers

Wm. Uncle, where was Major Gates at thi

Un. He was in his native land with his
and patron General Monckton, soliciting still
promotion. By and by, I will give you a
of his history up to the time that General
ington recommended him to congress for th
of adjutant-general. At present we must se
Sir Henry Moore the new governor did in th
1766.

John. Uncle Philip told us that he did ve
for New York; indeed he said little about h

Un. Yet the transactions of that time a
worth your knowing, and remembering. T
ruler arrived, I think, early in December,
fore he reached America, Major James, whc
perty had been burned, went to England to
story, and Mr. Colden wrote by him to the
try; to his letter he was answered, that Sir
Moore was then on his way to New York v
creased powers; among others, to suspend m
of the council. The minister says, "such t
these may require the exercise of that powe
that it is expected governors "should not wa
ness to use it boldly, whenever it *may seem*
to the king's service and publick peace." Th
me in mind of some letters I have seen in
from William Smith, son of the historian o
York up to the year 1762; a high king's w
afterward chief-justice of Lower Canada.
several times to Major Gates, who was in

during 1763 and '64. In one letter he says, "We in America *want aid*, not to maintain the dependency of the colonies, for you know, saucy as we are, there is nothing to fear on *that account*." He reprobates the cowardly expedient of removing governors, because the people don't like them. He says, "the first error is on *your side* of the water." Governor Boone of New Jersey had been recalled. Smith says the cause "was his contest with a *proud licentious assembly*." "We are a great garden—constant cultivation will keep down the weeds; remember they were planted by liberty and religion near a hundred years ago. There are strong roots that will despise the gardener's utmost strength." He then calls for governors and judges of spirit and abilities; as it would seem, to keep down these weeds planted by *liberty and religion*. It was thus these civil and military officers of England talked among themselves of America; and it was by such representations that Great Britain was encouraged to persevere in her attempts to make the colonies submit to taxation by an English parliament.

Wm. But they found themselves mistaken, sir!

Un. Happily, boy, they did,—happily for America, for England, and for the world. In March, 1766, that parliament repealed the stamp act, not because it was unjust, but because they saw that they could not enforce it, and that it was necessary to defer their plans of subjugation for a time. You have now, I presume, a sufficient knowledge of the opposition to the stamp act, and the rejoicings at the repeal.

John. Oh yes, sir, and of Lord Chatham, that friend to America.

Un. So Americans considered him; but he never was *in the true* sense a friend to America. He was a *friend to* what he considered the interests and glo

ry of Great Britain; and only opposed the
act because he saw that it could not be carri
effect. He advocated the doctrine which d
the *British parliament sovereign over the c
in all cases whatsoever*—he died exerting
spark of life in opposition to American ind
ence; and yet Americans, having been onc
suaded that he was their friend, have contin
this day so to call him. The assembly o
York had a statue of him made in Europe
up here in Wall street; the British, when the
the city, knocked off the head and one han
Americans, when they returned to the city, re
the trunk. Yet it is but a few months, since
calling themselves Americans, and supposed
derstand the history of their country, would
replaced the statue of William Pitt, Earl of
ham, in our high places, as the representatic
friend to American liberty!

John. Indeed, sir, I thought he was.

Un. You are excusable, my son; I dare s
were taught so in your school books. But
education should know better. John Adams
think so. He has written and authorized
words to be published: "The resistance in
ica was so universal and determined, that
Britain, with all her omnipotence, dared not
to enforce her pretensions—she saw she co
nothing without her Chatham; he was calle
command the forlorn hope; and at the sam
to invent the *ruse de guerre*." The stamp
repealed, and the statute passed, that "Parl
was sovereign over the colonies, in all case
soever." The repeal of an act, by whic
were taxed for stamps upon all legalized co
blinded them to the assertion which an
that they were slaves to the people of Grea

Mr. Adams says of Chatham, "He died a martyr to *his idol.* He fell in the house of lords, with the sovereignty of parliament in his mouth." Yet, boys, you and other children have been taught to call this effort to rouse his countrymen to *war to the death* against this country, a speech in favour of American liberty!

John. Indeed, sir, I see the truth now. But it is hard that we should be taught so many falsehoods.

Un. It is, my good boy; but our remedy must be to examine and judge for ourselves; determined to find the truth, and when we have found it, to tell it boldly. The undeserved reputations of individuals will suffer, but the names of the worthy will shine more bright; and the cause of truth will gain in lustre.

John. Is it known, sir, what the inscription was on the statue of Chatham, or on its pedestal?

Un. Yes: I have preserved a copy of it for the benefit of the curious. Here it is: Read it.

John. "A marble pedestrian statue of Lord Chatham was erected in Wall street, on the 7th of September, 1770. The statue was in a Roman habit; the right hand holding a scroll partly open, on which was inscribed, '*Articuli Magnæ Chartæ Libertatum.*' The left hand is extended, in the attitude of one delivering an oration. On the south side of the pedestal is the following inscription cut in marble: 'This statue of the right honourable William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was erected as a publick testimony of the grateful sense the colony of New York retains of the many eminent services he rendered to America, particularly in promoting the repeal of the stamp act, Anno Dom. 1770.'"

Un. Now we will adjourn until to-morrow.

CHAPTER X.

John. Now, sir, please to go on: for the l
understand our history the greater is my an
know more of it.

Un. That is the nature of all knowledge.
greater our acquirements, the more delightfu
subsequent study. Thus knowledge is "twic
ed." The people of America were so delighted
repeal of the stamp act that they took no notic
declaration of parliament accompanying it.
had resisted; Great Britain had retracted—*th*
umphed. But of all places New York see
rejoice most. We have seen that they er
statue to Pitt, but they likewise set up an im
his most gracious majesty George the Third!
ordered these statues to be made in Europe,
the ebullition of gratitude for not having the
and chain put on, seeming to forget that fea
prevented the attempt to rivet the irons by
These statues were ordered; but before the
set up the eyes of most men in America wer
from the films created by European jugglers.
the people believed then, and long after, tha
Chatham was their friend, and huzzaed wh
image was placed at the junction of Willia
Smith streets, in Wall street; but when the
ling Green was prepared by the iron railin
standing, and the equestrian statue of Geor
Third appeared in the centre, mounted on a
pedestal, the event was celebrated only by his
and their dependants; it was soon tumbled to t
and has been so forgotten, that grave writer
said, "the statue that once stood in the B
Green of New York, was that of Geo
Second."

John. While on the subject, please sir to tell us the history of this image of royalty.

Un. That it may not interrupt the chain of more interesting events, I will. The people, as you have heard, were so delighted with the success of their opposition to the stamp act, that they could not (or would not) see the meaning of the declaration that the British parliament had a right to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever; their triumph dazzled their eyes, and they saw in Mr. Pitt and his master two friends and benefactors. The assembly of New York voted money for an equestrian statue of the king, and a pedestrian representation of his minister. About three years after the statues of Pitt and his royal master were ordered, they arrived. The necessary preparations were made for erecting them, and the place of honour, the Bowling Green, in front of Fort George, was selected for his sacred majesty's [illegible] on the spot where the people had burnt the effigy of Governor Colden. It was pompously announced that this monument was intended to perpetuate the memory of the gratitude of his loyal subjects to the best of kings. It lasted five years. I suppose all was not ready on the 4th of June, the day annually celebrated as the happy epoch of his birth; therefore the 21st of August, 1770, was selected for placing the horse and his rider on the pedestal prepared for their reception.

John. Why that day, sir?

Un. It being the birthday of his deceased father, Frederick, Prince of Wales.

Wm. O yes, the son of George the Second.

Un. He died, you know, without ascending the throne. One of our oldest citizens has told me that he helped, as a journeyman wheelwright, to make the truck on which this ponderous effigy was dragged to the Bowling Green, "and the weight tore up

pavement as it went along," said he. Even
gilded image of royalty was burdensome and i
rious. Here is a memorandum of the ceremo
cut from a newspaper of the time; first premis
that the corporation of the city and members of
eral incorporated institutions waited on Lieuten
governor Colden, by invitation, at the fort.

Wm. What became of Sir Henry Moore, sir

Un. O, he had been long gone and Colden
ruled, after him and Dunmore had come and g
all in this short time, and now the old gentlen
presided, at the elevation of his master on the
selected by the people, formerly, for a very differ
exhibition.

John. "His majesty's health and other lo
toasts were drank, under a discharge of thirty-
pieces of cannon from the Battery, accompan
with a band of music. This beautiful statue
made of metal."

Un. The writer did not like to say *lead.*

John. "Being the first equestrian one of his p
ent majesty, and is the workmanship of that c
brated statuary, Mr. Wilson, of London. We le
that in a few days a marble pedestrian statue of
Pitt, will be erected in Wall street."

Un. Of that we have already spoken. T
equestrian statue of George the Third stood u
the summer of 1776, and then was overthrown,
(tradition says) converted into musket balls by
provincials to resist his majesty's soldiers. I s
this statue in 1775, and the pedestal stood in
centre of the Bowling Green, as a kind of mo
ment of departed royalty, and of the plain p
form-simplicity of democracy, for some years a
the revolution; and I wish it had remained th
still, that the memory of the statue it once bor
elevation, and its fall, might have been recall

the question of every stranger, "What is the meaning of that vacant pedestal?" But come, boys, (for I see Mary has deserted us to-day,) we must go back to 1766, and the arrival of Sir Henry Moore. This gentleman was the more acceptable from the unpopularity of Colden, and affairs were quiet here for a short time. But men of discernment saw the declaration of parliament of their sovereignty over the colonies, and right to "bind them in all cases whatsoever," hanging like the sword of Damocles over their heads, suspended by a hair.

Wm. I remember Damocles, sir, in my ancient history.

Un. A man named Charles Townsend cut the hair, and the sword fell in the shape of an act of parliament levying duties on painters' colours, paper, glass, and several other articles, and taking off the duties on teas in England, which had there been a source of revenue, and levying three pence per pound upon all kinds that should be in future purchased in the colonies. To add to the alarm occasioned by this additional taxation, the colonists found that their governors and judges appointed by England, were to be paid from the revenue raised from Americans without their consent, and thus made *independent*, as it respected salaries. Another grievance which had been partly submitted to was increased; this was the quartering of troops on the provinces. A denial to obey the orders of the ministry, promulgated by Sir Henry Moore, caused an act of parliament suspending New York from all *powers of legislation*, until she complied. This, you understand, was annihilating the assembly, the representatives of the people, by a stroke of a ministerial *pen*.

Wm. But our people did not submit to this!

Un. As a part of our own history I must relate

some particulars of the transactions of th
Sir Henry Moore had declared his instructio
repeated messages and answers had passed
fro, when on the 23d of June, 1766, the a
told the governor that they would furnish
racks of New York and Albany with beddi
wood, candles, and utensils for cooking, for t
talions, not exceeding five hundred men ea
they would do no more.

Wm. And too much, for soldiers to lord
them!

Un. So Mr. McDougal, and Mr. Sears, an
others thought; but Sir Henry and his em
thought otherwise, as you shall see. The g
wrote to the ministry expressing his *surpr*
instead of the *gratitude* he expected for the
favours they had received, the assembly
York evaded the demand made upon them
troops, and only complied in part, "through
the ill-consequences which would attend t
fusing." The ministry wrote to Sir Henry
requiring cheerful obedience to the act of
ment for quartering his majesty's troops. Sir
repeated his demand upon the assembly, a
answered that they had done as much as the
do. So early next year the bill was passed
ish New York for disobedience, prohibiting
actment of any law whatsoever in the colony
consequence of this was universal alarm thro
the colonies, and resolutions not to import E
goods. Before mentioning any other matt
agitated the colonies generally, and New Y
particular, I will speak of some further
arising from the quartering of English
though they happened in 1769. A notice
in the newspapers censuring the assembly
ing 200l. for quartering troops; and call

ing of the people. Accordingly, on the 18th of December, about fourteen hundred of the people met in the fields; resolves were read to them by Mr. John Lamb, (afterward a captain in the expedition under Montgomery, and long known here as General Lamb,) and they announced their dissatisfaction with the grant of money abovementioned; and further, that they would not grant any thing for the quartering and supporting of troops among them. On the 20th, Mr. Colden (for Sir Henry Moore died September 11th, 1769) issued his proclamation, saying that the assembly had by resolve declared the paper published on the 16th instant, calling the meeting of the 18th, to be an infamous libel, and offering a reward of 50*l.* for the discovery of the author. Philip Schuyler was alone in the minority on this question; he then took a stand that he never quitted. At the meeting in the fields a committee was appointed to wait upon the representatives of the city in the general assembly, and to communicate these resolutions to them; Mr. Lamb, Mr. McDougal, and Captain Sears were on this committee. They executed their office, were received civilly, but were told that the majority of the people approved the act of the legislature; and it was too late to reconsider it. Meantime Mr. Lamb was ordered to appear before the house of representatives to answer for having proposed the resolutions in the fields. The committee immediately announced that they were all equally answerable, and Mr. Lamb was dismissed. It was well known that Alexander McDougal was the writer of the offensive paper; and he was subsequently called before the assembly to answer to this charge. He refused; as the house had already declared the writing a libel. This was construed "a contempt," and he was committed, that is, *put in jail*; and remained in prison several months

Thus the assembly appeared in opposition to the people. When we next meet I will give you an account of the New York liberty pole, and the troubles the people had to defend it from the attacks of the soldiers, whom they were taxed to support in idleness, to answer the purpose of their enemies in the English parliament.

CHAPTER XI.

Wm. Now, Uncle, remember your promise to give us the history of the New York liberty pole.

John. Was the one in New York the first ever known, sir?

Un. Perhaps the first *mast* or *pole* that received *that* appellation. You have read in the history of Switzerland that the governor sent by Austria to rule in Uri, triumphantly erected a pole, placed a hat on it, and ordered the citizens to do homage to the emblem of tyranny.

Wm. That was a *tyranny pole;* but brave William Tell would not bow to it.

Un. It was erected to celebrate the triumph of despotism; here the good people of New York triumphantly raised a mast in the *fields*, which, you know, was the place of all their great meetings, and has been used for like purposes since it has had the name of *park*, because enclosed and ornamented. They were delighted that the opposition to the stamp act had caused its abrogation; and were blind to the insolent declaration which accompanied the repeal, "*that the parliament had a right to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever.*" It was enough for the moment that Great Britain had been forced

stract. The news of the repeal, which took place March, reached New York in May. Preparations were made for celebrating the event, and Sir Henry Moore had policy enough to unite the rejoicings for a victory obtained by the people with the usual demonstrations of loyalty and attachment to his master always evinced on the king's birthday. By this means he could with propriety join with the people in demonstrations of joy. Accordingly on the 4th of June, a mast, as it was then called, was erected in the fields, inscribed "to his most gracious majesty George the Third, Mr. Pitt, and Liberty." It is recorded that an ox was roasted on each side of the common; a large stage was built up, on which was placed twenty-five barrels of strong beer, a hogshead of rum, with sugar and other materials to make punch; at another part of the fields, or common, were preparations for a bonfire, twenty-five cords of wood surrounded a pole, to the top of which was affixed twelve tar-barrels. At the upper end of the fields were placed five and twenty pieces of cannon, a flag-staff displayed the colours of England, and a band of musick played "God save the king." The governor, his council, the magistrates, with their civil and military officers, celebrated the day at the fort, in all probability, as was customary, by feasting, and drinking loyal toasts to the sound of martial musick, and discharges of artillery. After this display of patriotism and loyalty in the fields, the people retired and left the mast standing with the inscription to the King, Pitt, and Liberty; and they soon had a proof that the rejoicings of the military, and king's officers of every kind, on the 4th June, were not for the repeal of the stamp act, or triumph of the rights of the people.

John. How, sir?

Un. On Sunday night, the 10th of August, th

mast "was cut down by some of the soldiers
twenty-eighth regiment, quartered in the barr
This was meant as an insult to the inhabitant
felt as such; but they at first only showed the
termination by meeting on the 11th and prep
to erect another "post" in place of that "whic
been taken down the night before;" to this
would-be-masters objected, and interfered. A
of soldiers rushed in among them, with their
nets in their hands, some sheathed and som
sheathed, and as the depositions of several p
state, "cutting and slashing every one that
their way; the people retreating, and follow
the soldiers as far as Chapel street;" that is,
man street, which was called Chapel street for
years after the building of St. George's chape

Wm. Was there no one to fight these sol
Where was Captain Sears?

Un. He was at *his post*, encouraging the
to set up another pole; but he was unarme
was one that received wounds from the insole
diers. The people, however, re-erected the *m*
the "King, Mr. Pitt, and Liberty;" and the mi
(probably overawed by the threats of the po
and restrained by the policy of their superiour
fered it to stand until the night of the 18th of M
1767, when after the citizens had celebrate
day as the anniversary of *the repeal*, and reti
rest, the soldiers cut down the *second* "
The next day the inhabitants (or that porti
them now distinguished as the "Sons of Lib
erected another, more substantial, and secured
iron hoops to a considerable height above the g
The night after *this* was set up, attempts were
to overthrow it, but without success. On Sa
night, the 21st of March, there was an att

blow it up, by boring a hole and filling it with gunpowder; but this also failed.

Wm. Why didn't the liberty boys keep watch, and blow *them* up?

Un. Next night a strong watch *was set.* A small company of soldiers appeared, with their coats turned, and armed with bludgeons and bayonets; but finding that they were expected, they sneaked off. The next evening about six o'clock a party of armed military marched to *the post;* and as they passed the tavern at which the repeal of the stamp act had been celebrated, they fired their muskets, two of which were pointed at the building. One ball passed through the house, and another lodged in a piece of its timber. This outrageous attempt at murder probably alarmed their superiours, who had encouraged them before, for on the next Tuesday, as the soldiers were proceeding to the *pole*, with a ladder, taken from a building then erecting, they were turned back by an officer. The governor now issued orders for restraining the soldiery, and the attempts ceased for a time.

John. For how long, sir?

Un. Certainly till the next celebration of the king's birthday; for I find it recorded that on the 4th of June, 1767, when the "royal salute was fired from the fort, it was answered by twenty-one guns from the "liberty pole," (now so called,) "on which," says the record, "was suspended a UNION."

Wm. What is that, sir?

Un. A flag so called, which indicated the union of England and Scotland. It appears that the "liberty pole" stood in proud defiance of the soldiers and their abetters until the 13th of January, 1770. *You will* remember that I have mentioned the difficulties respecting quartering the soldiers, and the meeting in the fields, at which the legislature was

censured for granting money to find accommodations for the king's troops; and that Mr. Lamb had been brought up before the assembly, and Mr. McDougal imprisoned for the same affair.

John. We remember, sir.

Un. All this, and many other insolent attempts to subdue the spirit of the people, made them more determined; and their opposition excited the rage of the king's officers, and of their tools, the soldiers. So, on the 13th of January, 1770, a number of men belonging to the sixteenth regiment made an attempt to overthrow the *liberty pole*, "by sawing off the spurs round it," and by exploding gunpowder in a hole bored in the wood. The attempt failed, and they then attacked some citizens who were near Mr. Montanye's publick house, (the place usually selected for celebrating *the repeal.*) The citizens retired into the house, the soldiers broke the windows and entered the tavern bayonet in hand. A thrust made at a citizen was parried, and he received a slight wound in the forehead; some officers interposed, and the ruffians retired to their barracks. Three days after, these fellows succeeded better; for they cut down the pole. The next day, the 17th of January, 1770, a great meeting of the inhabitants congregated in the fields, on the spot where the liberty pole had stood, and resolutions were adopted that "any soldiers who should be found out of their barracks after the roll was called, should be treated as enemies to the peace of the city." The instigators of the soldiers caused a handbill to be printed in which they made a scurrilous reply to these resolves, and it was attempted to be put up at the corners, but this was resisted, and several affrays took place in consequence. In one of these, between the Fly market and Burling slip, it is said one man w

"run through the body, and another had his scull split," but the soldiers were defeated.

John. Why, Uncle, this was a civil war in the heart of our city.

Un. Very like it, my son.

Wm. If I had been a man then—

John. Hush: it did not end there, sir; did it?

Un. No. The inhabitants now wished to have the authority of the corporation for erecting a new liberty pole; so, on the 8th of February, a committee of five gentlemen waited on the magistrates, in common council, with a petition for authority to erect anew, the "pole sacred to constitutional liberty." They stated, that as the military had made war upon the rights of the people by destroying "the monument of gratitude to his majesty and the British patriots," the people had repeatedly re-erected others of more stability in the place *where*, "by the approbation of the corporation, the first had been fixed." They now requested the sanction of the common council to set up another, more permanent and better secured, in the *same spot.* This petition was rejected; probably the magistracy were willing to remove the cause of disquiet, and therefore refused the publick land for this use. This did not defeat the intentions of the "sons of liberty." They found a piece of ground eleven feet wide and one hundred feet long (near the first spot) that was private property—this they purchased. Here a hole was dug twelve feet deep, to receive a mast prepared at the shipyards. This piece of timber, of great length, they cased all around with iron bars, placed lengthwise and riveted with large flat rivets, so as to extend near two-thirds of the height from the ground; and over these bars *they encircled* the mast with iron hoops, near *half an inch* thick, and when finished they had *drawn through* the streets by six horses, decora-

with ribands, and three flags flying inscribed
the words, "Liberty and Property." The
was raised without any accident, amidst the s
of the people, while a band of French-horns
ed "God save the king." This mast was st
ly secured in the earth by timbers and great s
On the top was raised another mast twent
feet in height, with a gilt vane, and the word
erty, in large letters.

Wm. So all they got by cutting down the o
was, that the people dropped Mr. Pitt and the
I dare say Captain Sears was at the head of
But was Mr. McDougal in jail all the while?

Un. At this time he was still in confinemen
the people paid him every honour in testimor
their approbation, and not only the gentlemer
the ladies of the city thronged to the prison to
him and show their opposition to the ruling po
A few days after the setting up of the great li
pole, forty-five gentlemen went in procession t
new jail and dined with Captain McDougal, ha
forty-five pounds of beefsteak, and observing
number forty-five in every thing brought on the

Wm. Why, Uncle?

John. I know; you will read about Wilke
his "*North Briton.*"

Un. Number forty-five of a paper writte
John Wilkes was presented as a libel in Eng
and was popular: this made a resemblance bet
Captain McDougal's case and Mr. Wilkes's. A
next celebration of the repeal of the stamp ac
inhabitants again paid a publick compliment t
imprisoned patriot. A great number dined at
tanye's publick house, near the liberty pole, w
tavern they called "Hampden Hall," after the
Hampden who opposed Charles the First.

John. I know, sir.

Un. On the top of Hampden Hall, and on the liberty pole, they had colours flying. The company at dinner was three hundred, and they nominated ten of their number to dine with Captain McDougal at his chamber in the jail.

Wm. That was right.

Un. After dinner the company marched from Hampden Hall to the liberty pole, and thence down Beekman street, and through Queen street to the Coffee-house; thence up Wall street to Broadway, and to the liberty pole again, where they dispersed. This celebration seems to have roused the ire of the royal party, and on Monday the 24th of March, they encouraged their tools, the soldiers, to attack the liberty pole again. Near midnight they attempted to unship, that is, to unfasten, the topmast; but some citizens discovered them and alarmed others, who repaired to the consecrated spot; these the soldiers attacked and drove off, but more arrived; the soldiers were reinforced from the barracks: the citizens rung the Chapel bell; on which, and seeing the number of inhabitants increasing, the soldiers retreated, and a guard was kept up at the pole all night. This was the last attack that was made by these English mercenaries, who had sworn, it is said, to carry part of it with them on their voyage to Pensacola, for which place they embarked a few days after; a riot took place in 1775, at which time, first appears in our story the notorious Provost Cunningham; but of that, hereafter.

Wm. But when, sir, did Captain McDougal get out of jail?

Un. On the 30th of April, this same year, 1770, *the grand jury* found a bill against him for a libel, *to which he* pleaded not guilty, and was admitted to *bail; himself in* 500*l.*, and two sureties each in 25

John. What, sir, were all the ruling men against him?

Un. It would seem so; for you have heard that no one of the house of assembly opposed the persecution of this gentleman but Col. Philip Schuyler.

Wm. Brave Colonel Schuyler! I shall love him as much as I always did Colonel Peter Schuyler that the Indians called Quidder.

Un. When I come to speak to you of Philip Schuyler's actions, you will find that you ought to love him even more. But now we must go back again to the year 1766.

Mary. Uncle, you promised to finish the story of the princess.

Un. True. And as I know little more about her, I will tell it now: first I must remind you that part of what I told you respecting her was only my own conjecture to account for her being able to deceive people as she really did.

John. You explained that, sir. Was there such a person as Tom Bell?

Un. O, yes. But I do not know that he ever met with Sarah Wilson. All I know further of the latter, is soon told. In Rivington's Gazette of May 13th, 1773, I found (besides the advertisement of Michael Dalton offering a reward for Sarah Wilson) the story of her robbing Miss Vernon, being condemned to be hanged, being transported and sold, running away from Dalton and carrying off clothes and jewels; and of her passing herself off for the Princess Susanna Carolina Matilda, and promising governments and offices to such as did her homage and lent her money. Then again, in September, appeared the following paragraph. I copied it. Read it:

John. "September 2d, 1773; on Tuesday last arrived in this city, a person who styles herself t

Marchioness de Waldegrave, and is supposed to be the same mentioned in the papers as Sarah Wilson, alias, the Lady Carolina Matilda. She still insists on her high pretensions, and makes the same impressions on many as she did in the south." This is very curious, sir.

Un. I think so. You observe that in October, 1771, she is advertised as a runaway slave; is pursued; and one account says that Dalton arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in pursuit of her shortly after she had departed on a visit to a plantation. Yet here she appears again in New York, two years after, making the same high pretensions, but under another name and title.

John. How could she escape? What curious adventures she must have had during those two years!

Wm. Is this all you know of her, Uncle?

Un. Not quite. I have made many inquiries both here and in Philadelphia, in vain. But being in company with a lady whose age entitled her to remember something of the year 1773, I asked her if she had ever heard of such a person. She immediately replied, "What, the princess? O, yes! I remember her well. When I was a little girl I met her at the house of a gentleman in New York, and she attracted my attention by her appearance and manners. It so happened that I was going to Perth Amboy, and from thence to South Amboy; she hearing this, made an appointment to go with me, and the family at whose house I met her arranged that it should be so. She had an introduction to a gentleman at Perth Amboy; but whether from her troublesome manners, or some suspicions that at this time attached to her, she was coldly received, and insisted on accompanying me to South Amboy, there to take the stage for Philadelphia. She required a

great deference to be paid her, and made a
family at South Amboy attend upon her dévo
she reading prayers to them; but what annoy
most, she insisted upon my sleeping with her,
had such dread of, or dislike to, her, that I sto
of bed when she fell asleep, and made my esc
the lady of the house. The next day she de
for Philadelphia. I had quite forgotten the
cess, and perhaps should never again have th
of her, if you had not asked me the ques
Thus, Mary, ends the story of the princess,
never heard more of her.

Wm. Perhaps she gained her liberty fro
master; perhaps she repented and was a good w

Un. Perhaps so: we will hope so. To-m
we will resume our history of New York.

CHAPTER XII.

Un. You have already heard from me the
that agitated our city during the disputes re
to quartering troops; and the riots arising fro
insolence of the soldiers in cutting down the li
pole.

Wm. Was it not unaccountable, sir, that th
itary should dare to insult the citizens as they

Un. No. For they saw that the colonists
considered and spoken of by the great men of
land, not only as inferiours, but as a kind of p
ty. They saw that governors were sent out
to serve the purposes of Great Britain, and to
fortunes as rewards for services done at home
only governors, but other officers. It was n
that two successive chief-justices of New

were, the one incompetent, the other infamous. The military officers of England looked with contempt on the provincials, whether holding his majesty's commission in the army, or as private citizens: (the latter were called by them *Mohairs:*) the soldiery of course caught the same opinions from their commanders. John, read this extract from a letter written by a friend to Major Horatio Gates. It is a specimen of the diseasedly arrogant feeling which generated the American war, and was cured by it. Major Gates was at the time at Pittsburg, and his brother officer writes as it was the custom of these English military gentlemen to speak.

John. "I send you a copy of Mr. Hughs's impudent letter, by which you may judge to what *degree of insolence the rabble of this country will raise* if they are not *brought down, from home.* This fellow was a baker lately, then a wagoner, and now, as an assemblyman, he thinks himself entitled to write to me in this style. Such letters should be answered with a stick, if the necessity of the service did not tie our hands."

Un. Thus *one* of those subalterns spoken of by Mr. Pitt as fit for governors of any of the colonies, writes to another, when mentioning a member of a provincial assembly, "the rabble of this country."

John. If such was the way gentlemen talked and acted, it accounts for the insolence of the English soldiers. About the time of which you are giving us a history, I believe, sir, the unhappy disputes between New York and Massachusetts respecting their boundaries took place.

Un. True, and with New Hampshire: for the governor of that province persisted in claiming and *selling the country*, now Vermont, even after *referring the dispute* to the king, and after his decision *in favour of* New York. At this time too, our

neighbour, New Jersey, was much troubled by
desperate band of counterfeiters, and by the robbe
of the treasury, which for a time was involved
great mystery; but it was afterward found that t
same gang of forgers and counterfeiters were li
wise the robbers.

John. You have mentioned to us a great ma
causes of discontent which existed before the qu
rel with England came to a positive and open w
but I confess I do not understand the subject ful

Wm. I wish we had come to the story of the w

Un. Ah, boy, you are like many that are old
but war is always a sad story. It is necessary t
you should know the cause of the bloody conf
of which I am to speak, that your feelings may
enlisted on the side of justice. When Engla
deprived New York of the power to make la
until she obeyed the orders for quartering and p
viding for any troops that the king might send
be in readiness to enforce his orders, it alarmed
the provinces; for they said if this is done to N
York, it may be done to us. So the people ente
into resolutions not to import goods from Gr
Britain until their grievances were redressed. Th
complained of many unjust prohibitions. Th
country was full of iron, and they were prohibi
from manufacturing it for their own use, or
making it into steel; they were obliged to send
to England and bring it back again, at a great un
cessary expense; and so of the hats they wore, th
must send the material *home*, for the benefit of E
lish hatters; if they made any woollen goods, th
were prevented carrying them from one provin
to another. Articles that they could sell to forei
countries they were obliged to carry first to E
land; and other things, that they bought of fo
nations, they were forced to carry to some

'eat Britain and pay duties on them before they ıld bring them to their *real homes* for sale, or ɜ. But above all, they complained that the jails England were emptied upon them; making the onies a receptacle for the English rogues and lians—their traitors and felons.

Wm. Tom Bells and Sarah Wilsons.

John. What was the particular cause of quarrel ɔut the tea, sir?

Un. Simply this. To raise a revenue, the Eng- h parliament laid a tax of so much a pound on ɜ article, if Americans imported it from Great ıitain; and they were prohibited bringing it from ıina. So they said, "Well, we will do without ' But that did not suit England; for it reduced ɜ profits of the East India Company, a great body merchants, who were bound to pay to the treasu- 400,000*l.* sterling a year, as long as their profits ıounted to a certain sum. So, as America would t import tea, the ministry gave the merchants rmission to send it to the colonies, that the duty ight be paid in England, and the profits of the ıst India Company kept up to that amount which quired them to pay the 400,000*l.*

John. Now I understand, sir. And the Ameri- ns determined not to have the tea forced upon em by this scheme of the English parliament, to ɪt a duty on it, and at the same time save the)0,000*l.* sterling a year.

Un. Just so. I shall say as little as possible ɔut the transactions at Boston, because you have ad, and must read, in every history of America ıe details respecting throwing the tea into the ırbour, and the other events of that time. We *ill confine* ourselves as much as possible to New *rk.* *Some of* the stories I have told you of what *pened* respecting informers, and in consequenc

of attempting to press sailors, took place in 176
and 1769, and there were many violent movemen
among the people that grew out of the resolutio
not to import goods; for some merchants tried
introduce English manufactures contrary to t
agreement they had entered into; and the people
some instances seized the articles and made the
owners send them back. During all these troubl
Sir Henry Moore was governor, that is, from 176
to September the 11th, 1769, at which time he die
and although he, as a matter of course, endeavoure
to carry into effect the orders of his masters in En
land, he conducted himself with a degree of pr
dence that caused his death to be regretted, esp
cially as Lieutenant-governor Colden was very u
popular, and the government of course devolv
again on him. It was soon after this, that M
McDougal was put in prison, as I have told yo
for calling the people together in the fields whe
they censured the assembly for voting 200*l.* to fi
accommodations for the English soldiers. In th
affair Captain Sears was a prominent man, and
punish him, he was accused of neglecting his du
as inspector of potash. He desired to be heard i
his defence, but the majority in the house of assem
bly refused to attend to his petition. At this tim
two distinguished patriots were in a small minorit
of the assembly, and their votes in favour of M
Sears were of no avail. In consequence, he pub
lished several affidavits contradicting the charge
made against him, and resigned the office of in
spector of pot and pearl ashes.

John. Who were the gentlemen you mean, si
that were in the minority?

Un. Philip Schuyler, and George Clinton; bot
glorious names in the war that followed. Nath
iel Woodhull acted with them at this time, and

but a great majority of the house [illegible] against them.

John. The people [illegible] when the majority [illegible] opposed to them, for the [illegible] appointed by the king [illegible] to liberty.

Un. But you [illegible] about the stamp act, [illegible] too barefaced and [illegible] strong for any set [illegible] eign influence. I [illegible] of the government [illegible] parts out of three [illegible] or ministry of Great Britain [illegible] which the third part [illegible] nating all money [illegible] governors, judges, [illegible] constant endeavour [illegible] ministry of Great Britain [illegible] security from them. [illegible] to force the assemblies [illegible] salary instead of [illegible] ministry used art and [illegible] purpose of which [illegible] America, therewith [illegible] and other officers, [illegible] Now I think you have attended [illegible] these affairs, and deserve to hear [illegible] nected with our history [illegible] taining.

Wm. O, the Indians! the Indians!

Un. First I will give you something of a [illegible] mountebank.

John. What, a mountebank [illegible]

Un. We have had many [illegible] appellation, but about the time [illegible]

speaking there appeared here, and travelled through most of the provinces, a real European mountebank quack-doctor; selling nostrums from a moveable stage, and accompanied by a clown to play tricks and talk nonsense, (such as circus-riders have to amuse the vulgar,) and a tumbler to astonish by his postures.

John. Such a person would not be tolerated now, sir, I think.

Un. No. The very rabble would hoot him from his stage, and pelt him with pebbles instead of buying his pills. I mention him to show you the difference between the feelings of the publick at that time and this. When I was a little boy like you, Philip, the mountebank I speak of, Doctor Yeldal, came once a year to the town I lived at in New Jersey, and to my great delight mounted his stage dressed in a handsome suit according to the fashion of that time, with a powdered wig, laced ruffles, and small-sword. A man dressed in a fantastick clownish habit, with a fool's cap on his head, amused the crowd of villagers by asking questions of the doctor respecting the cures he performed, and occasionally making remarks to excite the laughter of the audience. The doctor praised his medicines and exhibited a number of pill-boxes, assuring the people that in *one* of them was a gold ring, so that some person among the purchasers would not only possess the invaluable medicine, but a valuable piece of gold, and all to be obtained at the cheap rate of two shillings. While the doctor pocketed the money of his dupes, the clown, who was addressed as "Mister Merryman," continued his antics, and had an auxiliary to aid his attraction in Mr. Quicksilver, the tumbler,—a very beautiful youth, who walked on his hands, threw somersets, and showed other feats of dexterity and activity.

Mary. What is a somerset, Uncle?

Un. Throwing one's self heels over head, and appearing erect again without having, apparently, touched the floor or ground, is called by tumblers "throwing a somerset."

John. In this way, sir, I suppose the quack-doctor made a great deal of money.

Un. No doubt; and gave me, as a child, great amusement. This was a short time before the revolution. I always remembered this extraordinary exhibition, but for many years heard nothing more of Doctor Yeldal, Mr. Merryman, or Quicksilver; but not long since, I found in an old paper, "Holt's New York Journal," of 1771, this paragraph. Read it.

John. "A stranger, lately arrived here, who calls himself Doctor Anthony Yeldal, and sells medicines from a stage, who, by his harangues, the odd tricks of his Merry Andrew, and the surprising feats of activity of his little boy, highly diverts the people; he has for several weeks past exhibited at Bruklyn." Brooklyn is spelt here with a *u* instead of *double o.*

Un. Perhaps a mistake of the printer. Go on.

John. "Bruklyn on Long Island, to which place, it is said, several thousand of people, mostly from this city, have flocked to see him every day of his exhibition. On Monday last, a great multitude, as usual, having attended him, on their return to cross the ferry, the boats being insufficient to carry them all, were prodigiously crowded; every one got in as soon as he could, and when the boat was——" Here, sir, the paper is torn off, and what more happened is lost.

Un. So, so! I have worn it out in my pocket, and my memory must supply the rest. These idle people, many of whom, as is still too much the cu

tom, being from home had drank strong liquors at the tavern and ferry-house, and all elated by the holyday-show they had seen, crowded helter skelter into the ferry-boat; until finding that if more jumped in she would be too deeply laden, they pushed off from the shore without the boatmen, and immediately found themselves hurried away at the mercy of the tide, which, as you know, is very strong and rapid between the city of New York and Brooklyn. Away they went—men, women and children, crying, screaming, shouting, and quarrelling; in this helpless state the boat struck on a rock, and a hole was broken through the bottom into which the water poured rapidly; she passed over the first and struck on another rock—

John. Were the passengers drowned, sir?

Un. They had neither skill nor energy to save themselves, and it being evening, the people on shore thought their cries were a continuation of the unruly noises they had made while embarking, until they saw them throwing out water with their hats to prevent the boat from sinking; then, some skilful men, in other boats, put off to their assistance and saved them from the effects of their folly.

Wm. What became of this mountebank and his Merryman and Quicksilver?

Un. I have heard that Yeldal purchased an estate in the northeastern part of this province. Of the beautiful boy Quicksilver, I know nothing; but *Mister Merryman* makes his appearance again in another newspaper paragraph and in another character; he enlisted as a soldier in one of the continental regiments, and was the delight of his fellow soldiers as a companion; but he and some of his comrades having the spirit of licentiousness, in addition to that of Jamaica rum, too strong upon them attempted to rob a farmer near their encampm

who making resistance lost his life; the consequence was, that Mr. Merryman's last appearance before the publick was on a gallows.

Wm. Poor Mr. Merryman! he made a sad end.

John. In former times, executions must have been frequent.

Un. Yes. The humane institutions of prisons for preventing crimes, or reforming criminals, had not been introduced. The pillory, the whipping-post, lashes at the cart's-tail, branding with a hot iron, and cropping the ears, were inflicted as punishments when the aid of the gallows and the stake were not called in.

John. Some of the pirates that infested the American seas, must have been caught and punished in this city, I should think?

Un. Certainly. I will give you one instance, the circumstances of which were somewhat remarkable. About the time we have been speaking of, that is, in May, 1769 or '70, the court of admiralty of the province of New York, consisting of the governor and council, the judge of admiralty, and some others, tried and condemned Joseph Andrews as a pirate, for the murder of Captain Ruluff Duryee, and several sailors, on the coast of Africa, on board Duryee's vessel, in the month of September, 1766. And on the meeting of the court a few days after, for the purpose of trying Stephen Porter, another pirate, for the murder of the captain and crew of a Bristol ship, on the coast of Guinea, when the prisoner was sent for he was found dead, having hanged himself (by the string which supported his irons) to a bar of the prison window. A coroner's inquest being held, pronounced the deed "self-murder," and he was sentenced to be buried "at the upper end of the Bowery lane, with a stake stuck through the body, which sentence was executed accordingly.

As to Andrews, he was "hanged in chains on a high gallows, on the most conspicuous part of Bedlow's island." Such spectacles as these were often exhibited to the people in "the good old times." Now, children, to your books. To-morrow when we meet I will talk to you of the Indians of the Six Nations.

CHAPTER XIII.

Wm. Now, Uncle, you will tell us of the Indian wars.

Un. I will endeavour to give you a notion of this strange people before commencing the history of the revolutionary war; and to do it, we must look back again to the early times of New York. First I will mention to you that New York, among other proofs that its boundary line was the west side of Connecticut river, and that the province extended northward to the St. Lawrence or Canada line, averred, *that* the Five Nations, the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, had been subdued, and had submitted to the governors of New York, by treaties, as early as 1683. These Five Nations were, by the French, called Iroquois. They were a powerful confederacy of distinct tribes, and had conquered the other native tribes from the great lakes to the ocean. New York claimed, from their submission, the exclusive right to purchase their lands from them, and to have jurisdiction over the country when purchased and settled. The country on both sides Lake Champlain belonged to the Five *Nations*; and in the ancient maps, that water is called *Lake* Iroquois. New York, you know, likewise *claimed* all this country as being surrendered to

England by the Dutch, and granted by the king to the Duke of York; and the contending claims of the New England colonies caused jealousies between them and New York, that unhappily remained to the time of our revolution, and proved very injurious to Philip Schuyler, who was a patriotick member of the New York assembly at the time of these disputes; and one of the best of men. Of this controversy, and of the wars of the French with the Five Nations, you are informed in some measure, and must read more by and by.

John. Yes, sir. But please to tell us of the troubles with the Indians afterward; and of their history.

Un. I will endeavour to give you some ideas respecting this interesting race, that in the course of our history, you may better understand the events in which they were actors. You know, John, when Europeans discovered that there was such a continent as America, and such islands as those we call the West Indies, a people essentially different from the whites and from the negroes were found on both. The discoverers were in search of the East Indies, and they chose to call these savages Indians. You, John, have read the voyages of Columbus, and the Conquest of South America by the Spaniards.

Wm. And so have I, Uncle.

Un. Very well. Our business is only with that division of these widely extended nations which is adjacent to our own state; and more particularly those who were inhabitants of the *province* of New York. I would not, if I could, burden your memories with the names of every tribe, or even with the various appellations given by writers to any one portion of this race. We will call the Indians who were scattered over the middle provinces, the Delawares, (and they are likewise called the Lenni-lenape;) and those of New York, Long Island, and

the neighbourhood, Mohegans. Now it happened that a distinct portion of the savage race came from the north and west, long before the white people began to settle in the country, who were greater warriours than the Delawares or the Mohegans, and they conquered all the country from Montreal, up the river St. Lawrence, and about lakes Ontario and Erie, and to the Ohio river; and all that is *now* the state of New York, almost to the seashore; perhaps quite, for the Indians of Long Island paid them tribute.

John. This people was the Iroquois.

Un. So called by the French; and by the English the Six Nations. As we shall have more to do with them than most others, we must remember the name of each tribe, or nation, and the places occupied by them within our state. Five of these nations formed a confederacy, and carried on their plans of conquest in conjunction; which shows an advance in civilization and policy.

John. The names of these five, sir, I remember. They were the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas.

Un. The Mohawk river marks the situation of the first, who extended to Johnstown, where the agent for the English, Sir William Johnson, lived among them; they are now altogether removed from us; but some of them remain in Canada. The name of Oneida county, tells us where that tribe lived. Onondaga-Hollow contains still a portion of the Onondagas; Cayuga lake and river, which you see on the map, informs us who lived there; and a few Senecas occupy a part of their old station near Lake Erie. The Five Nations were in *the height* of their power and pride about the time *that the Dutch* built their trading-houses at New *York and Albany.* It was long after this, perhaps

in 1712, that another nation were driven from the south, and having some similarity of language with the Five Nations, they were received and incorporated among them as a sixth; therefore we will call the confederacy, the Six Nations. This last-mentioned tribe was the Tuscarora, a few of whom I found twenty years ago on the Niagara near Lewistown.

Phil. O, Uncle, have you been among the Indians?

Un. Yes, my son, among the remains of this once powerful confederacy, now a poor, despised, dirty remnant of outcasts.

John. It appears surprising to me, sir, that people in a savage state should have formed a kind of federal republick. Is there any tradition of the causes that led to it?

Un. When I was among the Indians (as Philip says) I became acquainted with a man named Webster, residing near the Onondaga river, who had been in childhood, and long before the American revolution, carried from a settlement on the frontiers, and adopted into an Indian family. He grew up among this people, learned their language, their customs, and was educated in all things as one of them. He said that the happy thought of union for defence originated with an inferiour chief of the Onondagas: who perceiving that although the five tribes were alike in language, and had by co-operation conquered a great extent of country, yet that they had frequent quarrels and no head or great council, to reconcile them; and that while divided, the western Indians attacked and destroyed them; seeing this, he conceived the bright idea of union, and of a great council of the chiefs of the Five Nations: this, he said, and perhaps thought, came to him in a *dream; and it* was afterward considered as coming *from the* Great Spirit. He proposed this plan

a council of his tribe, but the princip
posed it. He was a great warriour, a
lose his influence as head man of the
This was a selfish man. The younge
we will call *Oweko*, was silenced: but h
ed in secret to attempt the great pol
This was a man who loved the welfar
To make long journeys and be absent
days while hunting would cause no s
cause it was common. He left home a
but taking a circuitous path through th
all this great country was then a wi
made his way to the village or castle
hawks. He consulted some of the lea
tribe, and they received the scheme fav
visited the Oneidas, and gained the ass
chief; he then returned home. After
made another pretended hunt, and anot
degrees, visiting the Cayugas and Senec
ing the assent of all to a great council
Onondaga. With consummate art he
over his own chief, by convincing hi
vantages of the confederacy, and agre
should be considered as the author of th
great council met, and the chief of the
made use of a figurative argument, tau
Oweko, which was the same that we re
fable, where a father teaches his son
of union by taking one stick from a
showing how feeble it was, and easily
that when bound together the bundle re
most strength.

Wm. I remember it, sir. But how
dian know the fable.

Un. He did not know it. But this
lustrating a truth would readily occu
acuteness in a savage state; and mig

o various persons who know nothing of the thoughts f each other.

John. Is this the generally received opinion of he origin of this famous confederacy?

Un. I know not of any generally received opinon. Some authors say it existed from time immeorial; others tell us that the five tribes lived originally about the Grand river in Canada, and were ependants on a greater people, and by forming a onfederacy liberated themselves, and became conuerors of nations to the south; but my friend Webter's account is as good as any, for any thing I see. Ie had it from the people, among whom he lived s one of themselves; it was a tradition, and of the arly history of such people tradition is all we can ave.

Wm. Uncle, was Mr. Webster like an Indian? Iow was he dressed?

Un. He had been long restored to his place among white men, and Christians; and was, in appearance, ike other cultivators of the soil. He lived in the Onondaga valley, on his own land, near to the reains of that tribe; and was beloved by them. He was their interpreter in *all* communications with the whites, and they looked up to him as to a father. When his corn was ripe they came and gathered it in: at the time of haymaking they flocked to his meadows to assist; and the women were as eager as the men to aid him and his family in all their agricultural labours.

John. But the women do all the labour among their own people.

Un. That's true; when they are in the hunter state. I will tell you how Webster apologized for this. *The man is* expected to traverse mountain *and valley in* pursuit of game, and to bring home *e spoils of the* chase. The woman does the work

at home; she plants and gathers the corn, prepares the food, attends to the children and instructs them until a certain age, if boys; if girls, to maturity. The man is a warriour as well as a hunter, and must always be ready to defend his family, or to attack an enemy. "You have noticed," said Webster, "a woman loaded with her child, and perhaps a basket tied to her back almost as big as herself, and filled with corn or other produce, and a man walking before her unencumbered, bearing nothing but a bow and arrows or a gun and ammunition; this, remains of their old customs; for though these people about me are no longer hunters or warriours, they appear, on a journey, in the manner of their ancestors; the woman bearing the burden, and the man stalking on before, as her guardian.

Wm. Uncle, I wish you would tell us more of what you learned from Mr. Webster, for he must have known these people better than men who only visited them for a few days.

Un. If I talk about what the Indians now are, how shall we get on with our history of their former wars, and of what happened in our state during the revolution?

John. As the customs of the people remain in many respects the same, and were very little changed when Webster resided among them, that which he told you will give us a clearer notion of the transactions belonging to our history. What did he say of their religion, sir?

Un. He represented them as believers in one God; called by them the Great Spirit, from whom all good comes to men. They have no distinct notion of any revelation from him except in dreams; and occasionally some one among them, more artful than the rest, pretends to an intercourse with the Great Spirit by this medium, and gains thereby

great influence for good and evil. It is said that formerly most of the Indians believed likewise in an evil spirit, and propitiated him by sacrifices. But a native of the Tuscaroras who had been educated among the whites, and has published a book since I saw Mr. Webster, tells us that they have, subsequent to their intercourse with civilized men, in a great measure, abandoned that belief and practice. Webster told me that they observed four annual religious meetings, at which they offered burnt sacrifices. One was at the time of planting their corn; one when it was fit for eating in its green, or soft, or milky state—

Wm. The time we have "hot corn" cried in the streets.

Un. Yes; and when we make *suckatash*, by boiling it with beans, which is a delicious dish, that we owe to the Indians. Their third religious celebration, which appears to be, like the last, a meeting for thanksgiving, is when the corn is hard and fit for gathering in as winter food; and the last is in the winter, and if I remember aright, is to ask for success in their hunting. They have a belief in a future state, and in rewards and punishments after death. Some of their ceremonies have induced people to think that they are the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel.

John. Do you think so, sir?

Un. As far as I have any definite opinion on so dark a subject, I attribute their origin to the Tartars, a people they resemble more than any other.

John. They are celebrated for hospitality.

Un. All nations in a savage state are hospitable.

John. And does refinement, knowledge, civilization, and riches, make men hard-hearted and inhospitable?

Un. No. The rich and enlightened inhabitant

of New York is in every respect better than the savage. But he cannot receive into his house every stranger that knocks at his door. The state of society forbids. The stranger that comes to a great city finds a home with a relative or friend; or at a house open and prepared for his reception, called a boarding-house or a hotel. But remove the rich inhabitant of the city to a place distant from society, on a plantation abounding with wealth, and his doors will be as open to the wanderer as those of any Arab of the desert, or Indian of the wilderness.

John. But, sir, are not the poor more disposed to relieve the distresses of others than the rich?

Un. That is a question distinct from hospitality. Riches are sore temptations. And those who experience poverty may have a fellow-feeling for the poor. Yet poverty may, when united to ignorance, harden the heart; and riches may lead to that knowledge which teaches to love our neighbour as ourselves; and that our neighbour is every creature endowed with worth or oppressed by misfortune. Both poor and rich may have this salutary knowledge; without which *both* are poor.

Wm. But, Uncle, I want to hear more of the Indians.

Un. Ay, boy, let us go on.

John. You said, sir, that these pretended prophets, or impostors, made use of their influence for good and for evil. Can good come from deceit?

Un. Well questioned, my son. A temporary good we know has been occasionally produced by such base and unworthy means; unworthy of the good cause, and liable to be the forerunner of lasting evil: for falsehood is sooner or later unveiled, *and those* who have been deceived into doing good *may return* with redoubled force to the practice of *evil.* There is no sure foundation for good, but

truth. Mr. Webster told me of good produced by the commands of a pretended prophet who said that the Great Spirit forbade the drinking of any intoxicating liquors. You know that the white people introduced this practice among the Indians; and the Onondagas as well as others had been reduced to the degraded state of drunkards, whenever they could procure the poison that was destroying them. They listened to this man, who with good intent told falsehood to recommend truth. He told them that the use of spirituous liquors was destroying them: that the whites made them drunk to cheat them; this was truth. But he enforced it by pretending that the Great Spirit appeared to him and ordered him to speak to his favoured Onondagas. They obeyed, and strictly refrained. The consequence was better health, more industry, and a reputation for truth and honesty, which contrasted with the character of their neighbours the Oneidas, who were so conscious of their own inferiority, that if a stranger asked one of them to what nation he belonged, he would answer "Onondaga."

John. Then it seems, sir, that good proceeded from falsehood.

Un. For a time; yes. But see, children, it was like a good house erected on a foundation of sand. Falsehood is always detected sooner or later. We may suppose that this people, deceived to their benefit, should be convinced that their prophet had abused their credulity: they would perhaps again yield to the temptations of their appetites, and those of the mercenary traders around them, and become even worse than before: but if this man had persuaded them by arguments alone, and convinced their reason by words of truth, then, reformation *would have been* like the wise man's house you *read of, that was* founded on a rock; and their good

conduct would be as steadfast against temptation as that house was immoveable, when the floods and the winds assailed it in vain.

John. But the Indians are noted for deceitfulness.

Un. If they should possess every vice that men calling themselves Christians practise, they would be more excusable than those who have had better instruction and education.

Wm. Have they any education, sir?

Un. They are neither taught to read nor to write, but they are taught to run, to swim, to bear pain with fortitude, to shoot with the bow or the rifle, to make their own clothing, ornaments, utensils, and original arms, to be eloquent in council, polite in debate, and to tell the truth. Education of the best kind is given to us in infancy, before we are taught to read; I mean, children, the education your good mother gave you before you could speak the name of father.

Wm. Polite, sir? An Indian polite?

Un. Yes, they are polite. In their councils, (and every tribe is governed by its council like true republicans, every man having a voice, and the whole only yielding to the influence of age and wisdom,) and in the great council of the Six Nations, held at Onondaga, they never interrupt each other, and never rudely contradict. This I call politeness in debate, and worthy of imitation.

John. You said they were taught to speak truth; yet they are very treacherous.

Un. War, the curse of mankind, justifies in their eyes, and unhappily in those of men better taught, every species of deceit, falsehood, and treachery, for the destruction of their enemies. It is true that among men calling themselves civilized, there are certain rules or laws of warfare, which in many cases mitigate the evil. The Indian, who has not been taught

to love his enemy, and to return good for evil, openly indulges his thirst for revenge, and believes it right to do so. The Christian, so called, when he follows the example, or teaches the lesson, knows that he is doing wrong.

John. There always have been wars, sir. Is all war wrong?

Un. All, in my opinion, except for defence: and then no further injury should be inflicted than necessity requires. The war of the American revolution was a war of defence; for to oppose the destruction of the laws on which my happiness depends is as justifiable as to defend my life against the stroke of the assassin.

John. Had the Indians any laws?

Un. Certainly. Man cannot exist in society without them. Their laws were traditions: the customs of their ancestors, handed down from father to son; the memory of them preserved in some instances by strings of wampum.

Wm. What is wampum, Uncle?

Un. The Indians called by that name, pieces of clam and oyster, and other shells, which they contrived to cut out and string together; they used them for ornament, money, and remembrancers of facts or laws. Europeans made them a substitute for money when they first came to this continent. You will perceive, by what I have said, that the Indians had a definite notion of property. Each individual claimed his cabin or wigwam, the arms he possessed or fabricated, the skins or food he procured by hunting, and the clothing he made of those skins. For you know until Europeans brought them blankets and cloth, they wore nothing but the skins of the beasts they slew. The blankets and *other clothing* supplied by the whites served them *instead, and* the skins were more valuable to the

Dutch and other traders; so that each gained by the exchange.

John. But, sir, how did the whites get all the Indian land?

Un. Because the Indians had not a just notion of the value of the soil, not being an agricultural people. Every nation claimed property in a great portion of wilderness, but it was principally valued as hunting ground. If a man, or family, raised a field of corn or pumpkins, it was considered his while he occupied it, and he enjoyed the produce; but if he removed, it then fell into the common stock. This caused the Indians to set little value on their land compared to what Europeans did; and they sold large tracts of country for what was in their eyes of more value, a few guns, some powder, lead, hatchets, knives, and, unhappily, *rum*. The same cause operated in the gifts they made to white men. The well known story of the manner in which Sir William Johnson obtained a great tract of land from the Mohawks will elucidate the subject.

Phil. How was it, Uncle?

Un. John will tell you.

John. This Johnson was an Englishman, who at first settled upon a snug farm in the Mohawk country, and having been appointed Indian agent for the colony of New York, gained great influence over the Six Nations; and in one of the wars with the French he had the good fortune with a party of provincials and Indians to defeat a large detachment of the enemy. For this the king of England made him a knight, called him Sir William, and sent him ribands and stars, and fine coats. The Indians are very fond of finery, and the chief of the Mohawks coveted Sir William's scarlet coat trimmed with gold lace. So he told Johnson that he "dreamed a dream;" and it was, that the knight

gave him this fine red coat. Sir William knew it was necessary to his popularity that he should comply, and the chief received the garment instantly. But a short time after, Sir William "dreamed a dream."

Wm. Oho!

John. And *it* was, that the chief and his council gave him a large tract of land, from such a tree to such a rivulet. The chief said "Hoh!" The gift was made by the tribe. But the old chief said, "Sir William, I no dream any more: you dream better than Indian."

Un. There is a story told of the mode in which the first settlers of this island obtained land from the natives, which, if true, evinces something of trickery in the Dutch traders, and shows likewise that the Indians valued their soil very lightly. John, how does Virgil or his commentators say the land was obtained on which Carthage was founded or commenced?

John. The owners agreed to give or sell to Queen Dido as much as would lie within the compass of a bull's hide; and the cunning lady cut the hide so as to form one long strip with which she encircled land enough for the fortress which was the commencement of the city.

Un. It is said that one of the Dutch traders remembered *his Virgil*, and gained the same advantage over the Indians of Manhattan. They admired his ingenuity; and were only the more pleased with their visiters. I will tell you another, and a less known instance of the ease with which this people gave away their soil. On Long Island there long existed two families of the name of Smith, one of which was distinguished for years as being of the "bull-breed," from the manner in which their ancestor gained his farm. He had made himself

popular with the Mohegans, and for some service done them, they offered him as much land as he could ride round in a given time upon the back of a bull. Smith mounted; and the bull, not used to such treatment, ran: the Indians shouted—and, by following, with their clamour urged on the animal. Thus a great circuit was made through wood, marsh, and bramble; and Smith by keeping his seat on the bull's back, in despite of bush or brier, secured a large landed property, and a name to his posterity.

Wm. Why, Uncle, the bull's hide served Mr. Smith without being cut into strips. I like this story best of the three: the bull kept his hide and the man gained his farm.

Un. I think now we may return to our history, for you must know pretty well all that is necessary of the customs of the Six Nations.

John. I know how they eat the green corn; but how do they manage with that which is hard, as they have no mills to grind it?

Un. The women pound the grains in a kind of mortar made of the stump of a hard-wood tree. When I was at the Onondaga castle I saw on the ground a piece of wood about four feet long, and taking it up, found that it was solid and heavy, but tapering at one end. I asked its use, and was informed by a laughing Indian that it was their grist mill. It was the pestle used with the mortar for breaking their corn either for *hominy* or bread.

Wm. Uncle, you have not told us any thing of the burial of their dead.

Un. I questioned Mr. Webster on that subject, and he answered that when a death occurred in a family the women commenced a kind of howling monotonous lamentation, which called the neighbouring females to the wigwam, who joined in the mournful song. This is continued until the body is buried;

and sometimes for days after. The corpse is carried to the grave by men; others following, without apparent distinction or order. The women remain in the wigwam continuing their lament. The body of the deceased is deposited by the side of the last of his tribe who had been buried, and some ornaments are usually thrown into the grave. The relations of the deceased do not follow the corpse to its place of intended rest. In the township of Pompey is a very extensive cemetery where the bones of the aborigines lie in rows, side by side, for acres. The present owners of the soil frequently, when ploughing, turn up parts of the human skeleton, and occasionally some articles of dress, or instruments of war. The head that guided the council, and the arm that wielded the tomahawk, are scattered upon the surface with as little ceremony, as is used in our city when levelling a graveyard to make way for a street, or making an excavation for the cellar of a storehouse. It is observed that the wandering Indians assiduously avoid this township. They feel that not only their land has passed from them, but the resting-place and bones of their ancestors.

Wm. I am sorry for the Indians: are not you, sir?

Un. I cannot but lament their fate; but I rejoice to see those tracts of country which they devoted to the chase, and to the savage conflicts of exterminating war, now teeming with food for thousands and covered with the habitations of civilized men.

John. The Indians found some friends among the whites, sir.

Un. Many. Among those who endeavoured to save them from the arts of the wicked, or their own ignorance, I could speak of many Christian philanthropists. The best friends of the whites, the men who taught freedom of inquiry, equality of rights both civil and religious, and interchange of good

offices to all, were the men who were the friend of the Indians. Among them, William Penn an Roger Williams stand conspicuous.

Phil. You have not told us any thing about th way in which the Indians fight; and how they to ture their prisoners; and how their prisoners def them.

Un. When we speak of the revolutionary wa we may have an opportunity of mentioning the mod of savage warfare; and the tortures of both white an red prisoners. Let us now go on with our story.

John. You have told us nothing of their language sir.

Un. Because I know nothing of it. By an by, you will read what has been written on the sub ject. Webster, and others, have told me that amon the Six Nations there were two languages: one, th vulgar tongue; and the other much more refined The latter is only in use among their chiefs an orators. I have looked over vocabularies of Indi an words, with their English significations, but remember very few. I know that Onondaga mean "Swamp under the hill;" powow, a dance; wig wam, a house; and so of some other words that are known to everybody. "Swamp under the hill," is descriptive of the situation of the Onondaga village or castle. To-morrow I will tell you what hap pened in New York as the troubles increased in our country.

CHAPTER XIV.

Un. Well, my good children, you have come to hear the continuation of events in our city. Connected with its history is the improvement in publick buildings. In our last walk I pointed out to you the beauty of the new French church: now look at the picture of that which preceded it. As great, it may be said, are the advances generally in our architecture. Shall I now proceed?

John. If you please, sir, and can spare time from your more important occupation.

Un. My boy, I know of no occupation more important than teaching. I know no office more honourable than that of the teacher. I believe you have a pretty clear notion of the cause of that war with Great Britain which ended in the happy independence of our country, and the establishment of a government essentially democratick. There are some *transactions* particularly belonging to the history *of our city*, with which I must make you acquainted, *before* we come to the period in which actua

hostilities commenced. But having anticipated several events of the years 1769 and '70, I must proceed to those of Governor Tryon's administration in 1771. An occurrence of a private nature is recorded worthy of our attention before we enter on the subject of the opposition to the introduction of the East India Company's tea: I mean an instance of the extinction of life by what is called spontaneous combustion.

John. That is, I believe, sir, when any material takes fire of itself, without any apparent cause. I remember reading of a gentleman who took off his silk stockings when he went to bed and threw them on the floor, and next morning found in their stead a handful of ashes.

Un. There are many such instances on record; but this I am to mention is more rare, wonderful, and awful. We can imagine without great effort that electricity or some other natural cause should produce the ignition of a piece of dry cloth or silk, but that a living body, in apparent health, replete with blood and other animal fluids, should so take fire and be consumed, appears to be among the most strange and terrifick of natural phenomena.

Wm. And have such things happened, sir?

Un. Yes. The instances are rare, but the facts undoubted. I have never heard of but one in our city, and that occurred on the new-year's eve of January, 1771. The person who suffered by a death so dreadful to our imaginations, was a woman of large dimensions, masculine person, coarse manners, notorious in the neighbourhood for her boldness, habitual intemperance, and the vices allied to, and engendered by it. She lived in the upper part of a house, and by herself; access to her apartment being by a stairway on the outside of the building. A person who had left this woman in appar-

health, on the evening of the 31st of December, but, as usual, intoxicated, came by appointment on business in the morning of the new year, and found her door fastened on the inside. No answer was made to the knocking. A window was within reach, and could be opened. Through this opening entrance was made; and a strange spectacle presented itself. In the centre of the room, on the floor, a part of the unconsumed body of the wretched woman was seen, mingled with cinders, calcined bones, and ashes. In the floor a hole was burnt, where the victim of inebriation had fallen. The ceiling over this part of the room was black from the loathsome fumes of the sacrifice. Such was the awful end of a drunkard.

John. But, sir, have not the temperate experienced this fate?

Un. I know of no instance. But I know that the intemperate have in many instances been thus cut off by the effects of alcohol. Such a death is more striking, but not more dreadful than the usual end of the inebriate.

John. This, sir, you say happened in January, 1771: that was before Governor Tryon came to New York.

Un. True. Who was the governor then?

John. Lord Dunmore. Infamous afterward for raising the slaves of the South and arming them against the planters.

Un. True; and Governor Tryon was at the time of which we speak engaged in North Carolina, quelling an insurrection of certain unruly loyal subjects of his majesty. Before we enter upon more important matters, I will read to you a memorandum I made from a newspaper of certain property of the late Governor Montgomerie, which was sold *about this time* at vendue. The articles will at least *convey a notion* of the wardrobes of that day; an

particularly of the style of the governor's livery servants. "On the 12th of October, the furniture, &c., of the late Governor Montgomerie, will be sold at the fort." A catalogue of the property is given, which, though curious, I did not copy, but made a memorandum that among a variety of articles are "some blue cloth lately come from London for liveries; some white drap cloth, with proper trimming, and some gold lace."

Wm. A gentleman, in those days, must have looked very fine, with his laced ruffles, and gold laced clothes and hat.

Un. The old portraits appear very stiff and encumbered by their finery: and one of the uses of portrait painting is, that it transmits to posterity the real *appearance* of the men and women of times past. We will now turn our thoughts to the political history of the time. On the 17th of January, 1771, the assembly of New York voted 2000*l.* as a salary to Lord Dunmore for the year ensuing, and he returned a message refusing it: saying that "the king had appointed him a salary out of *his treasury*, and he wished this allowance omitted."

John. What was the meaning of this, sir?

Un. To make the governor altogether independent of the colonists, and dependant upon the king.

John. But then the English government lost 2000*l.* a year by this; and if the same method was taken in other provinces it would amount to a great deal.

Un. It was not intended that England should pay this. What is called his majesty's treasury was to be filled by taxes imposed upon the colonists. They were to pay his majesty's servants, who were to be *their* masters. The same offer was afterward made to Tryon and other colonial governors, and the same answer returned. Governor Tryon arrived here

the 8th of July [illegible]
who were [illegible]
The people of New [illegible]
usual formalities. [illegible]
sion to the city hall [illegible]
the usual [illegible]
And soon after [illegible]
Virginia.

Wm. I should [illegible]
looked.

Un. It is a [illegible]
makes [illegible]
have only a [illegible]
"noble earl" [illegible]
gentleman [illegible]
talking of the [illegible]
his recollection of [illegible]
age, when he [illegible]
said, "[illegible]
the negroes in Virginia.

Wm. And [illegible]
was, though [illegible]

Un. We [illegible]
pearances of the [illegible]
although a [illegible]
marks [illegible]
the tree [illegible]
and we know [illegible]
the best. [illegible]
on's arrival?

John. The disputes between New York and New Hampshire became very [illegible]

Un. Yes. [illegible]
tion in December [illegible]
sons had [illegible]
tending claims [illegible]
Hudson's [illegible]

houses, and driven away persons who were seated on farms held by titles from New York. That these violent persons pretended authority from the governor of New Hampshire, although he had "disclaimed such allowance and recommended implicit obedience to the laws." Tryon states the limits of the province, and calls upon justices and other officers to keep the peace.

John. I remember that New York claimed to the west side of Connecticut river.

Un. Yes: and Wentworth, the governor of New Hampshire agreed to refer the dispute to the king, who decided, as was just, in favour of New York; notwithstanding which, Wentworth granted and sold these lands under titles from New Hampshire, and by so doing caused feuds and bloodshed, and an ill-will towards the people of New York which lasted for many years after the disputed lands had been given up, and even after they were erected into an independent state. Thus you see that the disorders or outrages committed by the men of New Hampshire must be charged to the misconduct of Governor Wentworth. As late as March 5th, 1774, I find a report of a committee to the assembly of New York of facts respecting outrages committed by lawless persons "calling themselves the Bennington mob," who "have assumed military command and judicial powers." The committee name as ringleaders *Ethan Allen*, Seth Warner, and six others. These men acted under the authority of Wentworth, inasmuch as he sold and granted the lands which they were determined to retain, honestly believing that he had a right to sell them. Governor Tryon endeavoured in vain to accommodate this feud.

John. Uncle Philip said that Governor Tryon was "a base man."

Un. I think the charge too harsh. We m

judge him by his actions; always remembering that he was an Englishman, an officer commissioned by the king, and might think, not only that it was his duty to oppose the wishes of the people, but that it was for their good so to do.

John. So we might excuse many others, sir.

Un. Certainly. We will take Lieutenant-governor Colden for example, who might think he was doing right, notwithstanding the people were very much exasperated against him. I am far from justifying his political conduct in all respects; but we must remember that he was one of the most exemplary students and learned men of his time; the friend and correspondent of Linnæus, Gronovious, and most of the men of science then in Europe.

Wm. Well, sir, the people knew best for themselves for all that.

Un. So it has proved, boy, and I am heartily glad of it.

John. My information relative to this period, sir, is so imperfect that I must beg of you to be particular.

Un. Before I commence the details respecting the rejection of the tea, I will notice one circumstance immediately connected with the prosperity of the city. On the 2d of September, 1773, Governor Tryon laid the first stone of the New York Hospital. This building was then far out of town. A part of the present hospital was *that* commenced in 1773. Before it was completed, an accidental fire destroyed the interiour, and retarded the work for a considerable time. We will now proceed to the business of the tea; the introduction of which was intended as the test of the spirit possessed by the colonists to defend their right of self-government. I have explained to you the scheme of the ministry.

John. Yes, sir; to raise a duty or tax on the colonies, and by taking one off from the East Indi

Company, continue a claim on them for 400,000*l.* sterling a year.

Un. The intention and its consequences were duly appreciated by the colonists, and, as you know, the Bostonians, (in whose harbour the article first arrived,) when they could not prevail to have it sent back, threw it into the sea. One immediate consequence of this was a law of the English parliament prohibiting all entries or shipments of goods at Boston. This is what is known in history as the Boston port-bill. We shall now see how these proceedings of the British parliament were received in New York. On the 16th of December, 1773, an advertisement appeared, stating that "the members of the *association of the sons of liberty*, are requested to meet at the city hall to-morrow, (being Friday,) on business of importance; and every friend to the liberties and trade of America are hereby most cordially invited to meet at the same place." Accordingly, on the 17th, a numerous company assembled, and Mr. John Lamb addressed them. He said several letters had been received from the committees of correspondence of Boston and Philadelphia on the subject of the East India Company's tea. The letters were called for and read. They invited the colonies to unite in resisting the insidious intentions of Great Britain. A committee of fifteen was chosen to answer these letters. The object of the association was explained to the publick, and the intention of the parliament in imposing the duty on tea. It was stated that the captains of the American ships had refused to take this obnoxious article; but that the East India Company had chartered vessels to receive it, and that it might be soon expected to arrive; therefore the subscribers had associated to support their rights, under the title of "The Sons of Liberty of New York," and had re

solved, that whoever aided in the introduction of tea into the country in any way whatsoever, should be considered as an enemy. The persons assembled were invited to join in the resolution, and the question being put by Mr. Lamb, it was adopted unanimously. In this stage of the business, the mayor and recorder entered, and announced a message from the government. The citizens agreed to hear it. Whitehead Hicks, esquire, the mayor, assured them from the governor, that on the arrival of the tea it would be taken into the fort at noon-day; and pledged his honour that it should continue there, until the council should advise it to be delivered out; or until the king's order, or the proprietors' order, should be known: and then it should be delivered out of the fort at noon-day."

John. Did that satisfy the people, sir?

Un. No. They had made up their minds that it must be returned forthwith in the ships that brought it. And when the mayor asked, "Gentlemen, is this satisfactory to you?" there was a unanimous answer of "No! No! No!" Mr. Lamb read the act of parliament, and pointed out that the duty must be paid if the article was landed. The question was put, "Shall the tea be landed?" and answered in the negative.

Wm. That's right!

Un. Resolutions were then passed approving the conduct of the people of Boston and Philadelphia; and the meeting adjourned "till the arrival of the tea-ship." In the mean time another event happened that must be remembered as belonging to the history of our good city.

John. What was it, sir?

Un. You all remember that at the beginning of the affair called the negro plot, in 1741, the governor's house in the fort was burnt.

Wm. O yes, sir. When Governor Clarke lived there.

Phil. When Major Drum frightened the people.

Un. Another house was built by the province in the same place, and it is sometimes called the province house, and sometimes the governor's. At this time it was occupied by Governor Tryon and his family. A few days after the meeting of the Sons of Liberty, which you will remember was on the 17th of December, 1773, while the town was free from agitation, or even noise, at the hour of midnight, the governor's house was discovered to be on fire. This happened on the 29th of December. So sudden and furious was the conflagration, that Mr. Tryon and his wife with difficulty escaped from the flames through an unfrequented door, on the east side of the building, which led to the ramparts of the fort. Their daughter saved herself by leaping out of a window of the second story. The house and furniture were destroyed; and the adjoining buildings, within the fort, were only saved owing to their roofs being covered with snow, and by the strenuous exertions of the citizens. But they did not save what was of more worth. A servant girl of sixteen years of age, either too timid to follow the example of Miss Tryon, or sleeping in an upper chamber, perished miserably without the possibility of rescue. The name of this girl, Elizabeth Garret, is preserved. Two days after the fire, the great seal of the province was raked out of the ashes, and found to be uninjured. On the 12th of January, 1774, the governor in his speech to the assembly tells them, that "with the utmost agony of mind for the safety of his family, he lately beheld his own interest and the province house involved in one common ruin." Particularly, he says, after their liberal grant for the repairs of the building. He tells them

that the boundary line between New York and Massachusetts had been settled by the commissioners appointed for that purpose, but with Canada it had not yet been determined. He likewise informed them that, in consequence of the outrages committed by the New Hampshire men on the settlers under the New York government, he had been ordered to England.

John. He meant that disputed land, now the state of Vermont.

Un. Yes. In consequence of the fire at the fort, the governor at this time resided in Broad street. Both houses of the legislature condoled with him on his loss, regretted that he should be called *home,* and passed a law granting him 5000*l.* in consideration of his loss by the burning of the province house.

John. Did he go away then?

Un. He departed for England on the 8th of April, and if we were to judge by the compliments paid him on the occasion, we should say he was very much beloved. Many of the gentlemen of the city gave him a publick dinner. General Haldimand, the commander of the king's troops, gave a ball on the occasion. Addresses were poured in by corporations and societies; and King's College made him a doctor in civil law.

Wm. Was he a lawyer, Uncle?

Un. No. But that is not considered when colleges wish to flatter. However, Doctor Tryon departed, and left the government once more to old Doctor Colden, who, as a man of literature and science, had a claim to that title, as well as from his having had the education of a physician.

John. I am afraid, sir, that Mr. Colden had as *hard a time* with the Sons of Liberty now, about the *tea, as he had in* 1765, about the stamps.

Un. We shall see. I rather think that Doct

Tryon was well pleased to get out of the way of Messrs. Sears, Sands, Scott, and McDougal: and to turn over Nathaniel Woodhull, George Clinton, and Philip Schuyler, (with some other true Americans who now began to show themselves,) to the management of Dr. Colden.

John. Were there not other conspicuous names in our city, sir?

Un. The names of Delancey and Livingston are conspicuous in the history of New York. The families had long been rivals. James Delancey you may remember as the lieutenant-governor appointed by the *English* Governor Clinton, and he was long a man of influence in the province; the time had now arrived when the name of Livingston became ascendant as one of the constellation that guided the people to liberty; and the Delancey, leaning upon the power of England, sunk on the horizon of the west. You will now hear of Jay, Morris, Schuyler, and Clinton. And I must mention two names less brilliant, and borne by men as dissimilar in character as any leaders of the two great political parties that now divided the province of New York, James Rivington and Christopher Colles. The first, issued proposals, in March, for publishing a weekly gazette, and printed the first number on the 22d of April, 1773. The second, one year after, delivered lectures on natural philosophy; and projected water-works (which were begun to be executed) for supplying New York with good and wholesome water.

John. I thought, sir, that the Manhattan works were the first in point of time for that purpose.

Un. The first ever put in operation. But Mr. Colles's water-works have priority of intention. I remember the basin of earth raised to receive the water, on a high ground to the east of the new road; that is, on the east side of Broadway, near

the present intersection of Leonard street; and the water was to be raised from a lake or pond farther to the east, extending from what is now a part of Pearl street, to what is now Canal street. All, then, out of the city. This was the *fresh-water*, or *kolk*, or *collect*, of former days. Rivington will long be remembered as the "king's printer" at the time of our revolution; and there is a street in this city named after him: but the only memorial of Christopher Colles, (a learned, meek, and benevolent gentleman,) is the portrait of a little old man, painted by John Wesley Jarvis, now hanging in the library of the Historical Society. Come, let us go and look at it before we talk of the troubles that preceded the war.

CHAPTER XV.

Wm. Why is that old street we passed in o
walk to-day, called New?

Un. I can give no other reason than that it w
new when named. Here is a picture of a hou
such as all the buildings were when it was
a *New* street.

John. Now, sir, we shall be glad to hear you on the subject of our city's history.

Un. We have arrived at a period of great importance. The press teemed with essays in favour of the measures of Great Britain on one part, and in defence of the rights of America on the other. It is to be remarked, although it in no way affects the merits of any religious system at the present day, that the warmest advocates of England were clergymen of the Episcopal church. At the head of these must be placed Doctor Cooper, the president of the college, a man of science, literature, and wit. His coadjutors were Doctors Inglis, Seabury, and Chandler, and the Reverend Messrs. Wilkins and Vardill. But their cause was bad, and they had to contend with genius wielding the arms of truth. William Livingston, afterward the republican governor of New Jersey, with Morris, Jay, McDougal, and (although but a youth of seventeen) Alexander Hamilton, were the champions of America. Schuyler, Clinton, and John Morin Scott, were not idle. The associated Sons of Liberty stood ready for action under their well known leaders, Sears, McDougal, and Lamb. At length, on the 21st of April, 1774, the long expected tea-ship, the Nancy, Captain Lockyier, arrived. The pilots of the port received their instructions from the committee, and refused to bring her farther than the Hook. The captain came up to town, and was met by a deputation of the Sons of Liberty, and informed that he must return forthwith with his ship to London, and deposite his cargo with those who shipped it. To this command he of course saw that no opposition would avail. He desired to see the consignee of his lading, Mr. Henry White, an Englishman, and, either then, or shortly before, one of his majesty's council for the province. The deputies escorted Captain Lockyier to the intend-

agent of the East India Company, who was too well informed of the state of things to hesitate in his answer. He renounced his agency, and refused to receive that which he had long desired, but was now far beyond his reach. The ship Nancy was detained at Sandy Hook until Lockyier was ready to depart, and was closely guarded by a committee of vigilance from the Sons of Liberty, who prevented the sailors (necessary for navigating her back to England) from leaving the vessel.

John. Poor fellows; how they must have longed to reach the shore!

Un. The boats being secured, they made an attempt to land by means of a raft, but were turned back and confined to the ship.

John. But this was hard, sir.

Un. It is thus that individuals must sometimes suffer when the welfare of a nation or community is at stake. This was now the case. These English sailors were supplied with every thing needed for the safe navigation of the ship home again. But go they must. In the mean time another affair called for the interference of our citizens. You will recollect that it was said all the American captains of ships had refused to take the tea.

John. Yes, sir; and that the East India Company had chartered English ships. Such, I suppose, was the Nancy.

Un. The Sons of Liberty received information that one of the New York ship-captains, notwithstanding his profession that he would not receive the obnoxious article, had shipped eighteen chests of it in London, that he had already arrived at the *Hook*, and that his ship was on her way to the town. The pilots had no orders to stop this ship, as her commander, Captain Chambers, was known, and had made such professions of patriotism. The pi

lot that boarded him inquired if he had any tea. and he denied.

Mary. O, for shame!

Un. The ship arrived at the wharf, and was immediately boarded by the citizens.

Wm. Captain Sears at the head, I will warrant!

Un. Captain Chambers was again questioned, and again denied. Thus one falsehood leads to another, and the guilt and shame are doubled. He was told that they had unquestionable information that he had tea on board; and that they would search every package in the ship until they found it. Seeing their resolution, he confessed; but said it was not the East India Company's tea: that it was a private venture, shipped and owned by himself. This paltry equivocation did not save him from censure, or his tea from destruction. The hatches were ordered to be opened; the eighteen chests were found and hoisted to the deck; then, very deliberately, emptied into the salt water of the bay. After which the people quietly dispersed; and Chambers was suffered to withdraw, covered with contempt, when probably he had anticipated a covering of tar.

John. What was done with Lockyier, sir?

Un. Every thing being ready for his departure, ship, cargo, and all, a day was appointed and announced to the people. The bells were ordered to be rung. The Sons of Liberty met the captain of the English Nancy by appointment at the Coffee-house. Hither the citizens flocked in greater numbers than ever before was known. The house was in Wall street at the corner of Water street, and opposite the Tontine Coffee-house of more recent construction. It was then kept by Mrs. Ferari, who removed to it in 1772, from the old Coffee-house, *which was on* the ground afterward occupied by the *Tontine.* The crowd filled the street. The con

mittee brought out Lockyier into the balcony. He was received with cheers, and a band of musick played "God save the king." With all these unwelcome honours the English captain was escorted by the "Sons of Liberty" to the wharf at the foot of Wall street, where seeing him on board the pilot boat that was to convey his vessel off, they "wished him a good voyage" home, and then with the people dispersed. The committee of vigilance still attended upon his ship at the Hook, and guarded his tea and his crew. Captain Chambers, under protection of another committee, embarked on board Lockyier's ship. She sailed; the bells rang; the flag was hoisted on the liberty pole, and every ship in the harbour displayed her colours in token of triumph.

Wm. Well done, the good people of New York!

Un. But a more serious business was yet to be done.

John. What was that, sir?

Un. To elect good men and true, to meet in congress at Philadelphia.

John. They found them, sir!

Un. They did, boy. But the Sons of Liberty had to struggle hard to carry the election; for many in New York (besides the downright tories or supporters of tyranny) were afraid of the measures advocated by the champions of our rights; while others conscientiously adhered to the mother country, and believed that she would remedy the grievances complained of, if conciliatory means were used. In this state of the publick feeling, on the 19th of May, 1774, (shortly after Chambers's tea had been thrown into the Coffee-house slip, at the bottom of Wall street, and Lockyier and his cargo had been *sent to* report that New York was as rebellious as *Boston,*) a great meeting was called at the Coffee-*house,* to take into consideration the state of their

fellow-countrymen at Boston, who, as I have said, were deprived of the means of prosecuting their commercial business, and many of them reduced to immediate want by the arbitrary act of parliament called the Boston port-bill.

John. Intended to punish the Boston folks, and thinking that the other people would be quiet and look on.

Un. If they thought so they greatly mistook. Every colony felt the injury as done to itself; and that which perhaps was intended to produce disunion, became a bond to unite all the genuine provincials from one end of the continent to the other. At this great meeting in May, a committee of fifty-one were appointed who were to deliberate for the citizens. Many of this committee were, to my knowledge, tories: but the majority were friends to America, yet not willing to oppose the measures of parliament. Most of these last described were merchants, and a portion of them never served.

Wm. Was Captain Sears on this great committee, sir?

Un. Yes, your favourite was one, and Captain McDougal another. On their first meeting they appointed a committee of correspondence, consisting of Alexander McDougal, Isaac Low, James Duane, and John Jay. Letters from various parts were read. The project of a congress to meet at Philadelphia was considered, agreed to, and delegates nominated. This great committee had too many of the cold or disaffected to suit the ardent leaders, and on the 6th of July, another general meeting of citizens was called, and Mr. McDougal placed in the chair. This was afterward called "the great meeting in the *fields*." Here a number of resolutions were passed, more congenial to the spirit of the times. They approved the conduct of the Bostonian

and resolved to support them. They opened a subscription for their relief. They entered into non-importation agreements; and determined upon a plan for the election of delegates to that congress which they foresaw would be the bond of future union for the colonies.

John. These were the best men!

Un. The next day the committee of fifty-one met, and Mr. Thurman moved a resolution, which was seconded by Mr. McEvers, disapproving of the meeting of the day before, and of their proceedings. This was carried by a large majority. Upon which all the true American whigs requested their names to be struck from the committee of fifty-one. Whether they eventually seceded, I know not, but, on the 25th of July, the polls were opened at the different wards for the election of delegates to a congress to meet at Philadelphia, and Philip Livingston, John Alsop, Isaac Low, James Duane, and John Jay, were chosen.

John. Were these good men, sir?

Un. Yes. Some of them very good. One of them pre-eminently so.

John. Ah, I know that was Mr. Jay.

Un. When the time arrived for the delegates to proceed to Philadelphia, the people assembled in vast crowds to attend them to the place of embarkation, and took leave of them with every demonstration of confidence in their abilities and patriotism. The congress of this year laid the foundation of American self-government. Messrs. Jay and Livingston of New York, with Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, were appointed a committee to draw the declaration of rights. The composition is attributed to John Jay. It belongs to the general history of our country, and must be read by you all. But I will cite one passage which dwells on my memory

as particularly applicable to the state of the controversy at this period, and placing the question at issue between England and America in its true ground. The passage I allude to is this. After speaking in strong terms, and almost horrid, of the conduct of Great Britain, as "forging chains for her friends and children," and becoming the "advocate of slavery and oppression," the declaration says "know then, that we consider ourselves and our posterity as we are, and ought to be, as free as our fellow-subjects in Great Britain: and that no power on earth has a right to take our property from us without our consent." And again, "We claim to be free as well as our fellow-subjects of Great Britain, and are not the proprietors of the soil of Britain lords of their own property? Can it be taken from them without their consent? Will they yield it to the arbitrary disposal of any man or number of men whatever? You know they will not."

John. How was this declaration received, sir?

Un. By Americans with enthusiastick pleasure. By Englishmen as the height of insolence. The parliament of Great Britain, and most of the people, (if they thought at all on the subject,) looked on the colonies as I have before shown you, merely as their property; and upon the provincials as inferiour beings,—creatures only existing by their permission and protection; to be guided, and fleeced, as flocks by their shepherds.

John. I remember, sir, that whatever low opinion they had of the colonists, they were afraid of their union.

Un. Yes; by making an artful distinction in the laws intended for their punishment, they hoped to *divide them.*

Wm. *But* the colonists were as wise as the Indi-

ans you told us of; and knew that the bundle of arrows was stronger than one arrow alone.

Un. Very true, my good boy. But what has become of Philip and Mary?

John. Mary has left us; and Philip is making a boat.

Phil. Here I am, Uncle. But I am tired of what you are talking about; besides I don't understand it. And you promised us more stories.

Un. Come here. I will tell you a story. But as the place in which the events happened of which I am going to speak was New Jersey; and as New Jersey was part of Neuw Nederlandts, that is, of New York, at the beginning of our history, I will say a few words generally of that province before I begin my story.

John. If you please, sir.

Un. But not till we meet again.

CHAPTER XVI.

Un. Now, children, I will talk to you of New Jersey. At the peace of Breda, the Dutch surrendered the New Netherlands to the English, and received in exchange a country called Surinam. In consequence of this surrender, all the territory from Connecticut river to the Delaware was considered as the property of the Duke of York; and he sold New Jersey (that is, the land, bays, and rivers, from the Delaware to the Hudson) to Lord Berkely and Sir George Carteret. These two agreed upon a division; Berkely taking as his half the western part, bounded on the Delaware, and Carteret that portion bounded on the Hudson; thenceforth the one is called

East Jersey, and the other west. The early purchasers and settlers of New Jersey, in 1680, expressed so fully and admirably the rights they preserved as Englishmen, although they had come to America, and those they had acquired by their purchase from James, Duke of York, that I will read a few passages to you from Samuel Smith's history, to prove in what light they viewed the Indians; and to show likewise that they used the same arguments respecting their own liberty and property, which their descendants brought forward in 1775. They insisted upon the right of self-government; and say, "to give up this (the power of making laws) is to resign ourselves to the will of another; and *that* for nothing: for, under favour, we buy nothing of the duke, if not the right of an undisturbed colonizing, and *that* as Englishmen, with no diminution, but expectation of *some increase* of those freedoms and privileges enjoyed in our own country; for the *soil is none of his, 'tis the natives'*, and it would be an ill argument to convert them to Christianity, to expel instead of purchasing them out of those countries."

John. Why, sir, this is as beautiful as if William Penn wrote it.

Un. These men, Edward Billinge, Samuel Jennings, Gawin Lawrie, and their associates, were the friends of William Penn; and like the Puritans of Plymouth, true democrats in principle. They say, again, "we have not lost any part of our liberty by leaving our country," and it is evident that the hope of self-government was their leading motive. You see likewise, my children, that however admirable the declaration of rights may be esteemed which the congress of 1774 drew up, these New Jersey men expressed the same notions and supported them by the same arguments, quite as well.

John. And I like what they say respecting the Indians.

Wm. Were the Indians in New Jersey a part of the Five Nations?

Un. No. They were generally of the Lenni-Lenape, or Delawares. And now, as I think you have had enough on the subject of laws and rights for one lesson, I will tell you something of these New Jersey Indians. There were many tribes, and each had its own name, as Mingo, Anastaka, Chichequas, and so on. The chief man of the tribe was called a sachem, but the English settlers called them all kings, although as unlike kings in authority as they were in appearance. They were leaders, only as they were the wisest and best of the tribe. They were an inferiour people in some respects to the Iroquois or Five Nations, who held them in contempt; but they were more disposed to peace, and in sincerity, hospitality, and gratitude to their Creator, they were at least equal to any of the natives. The historian of New Jersey says that they believed in a God and immortality: that they "seemed to aim at publick worship," sitting in circles, one circle within another, and singing, jumping, shouting, and dancing." They said the Great Being that made them, "dwelt in a glorious country to the southward," and "that the spirits of the good should go there." "Their most solemn worship was the sacrifice of the first fruits; in which they burnt the first and fattest buck, and feasted together upon what else they had collected."

John. This, sir, is like what Mr. Webster, the interpreter, told you of the Five Nations of New York.

Un. I do not doubt, my son, that all the Indians, or red men of this northern continent, were originally from one stock. Thomas Budd, one of the first settlers of New Jersey, published a pamphlet,

in which he says that the Indians had been very serviceable to the English in supplying them with food and skins. That in their publick meetings of business, "they have excellent order, one speaking after another; and while one is speaking all the rest keep silent, and do not so much as whisper one to another." On the subject of keeping peace, he gives a speech of one of the chiefs. In their figurative language he said, "We are willing to have a broad path for you and us to walk in, and if an Indian is asleep in this path, the Englishman shall pass by and do him no harm; and if an Englishman is asleep in this path, the Indian shall pass him by, and say, he is an Englishman, he is asleep; let him alone, he loves to sleep. It shall be a plain path; there must not be in this path *a stump* to hurt our feet." On the subject of intoxicating drink their language was, "The strong liquor was first sold to us by the Dutch; and they were blind, they had no eyes, they did not see that it was for our hurt. The next people that came among us were the Swedes;" "they likewise were blind, they had no eyes, they did not see it to be hurtful to us"—"we are so in love with it that we drink it, though we know that it makes us mad; we throw each other into the fire, we kill each other. Those people that sell it are blind; but now there are a people come to live amongst us that have eyes; they see it to be for our hurt, and we know it to be for our hurt: they are willing to deny themselves the profit of it, for our good." You will observe the delicacy, in not attributing the selling of this poison to them by the Dutch and Swedes to evil motives, but merely to an ignorance that it would do harm; and they compliment the English settlers by attributing to them *superiour knowledge*; and disinterestedness in consequence *of knowledge*. As you have mentioned Wel

ster, the interpreter, I will give you a story told by another interpreter, to show the sense which the Indians have of the goodness of the Giver of Life in the preservation of his creatures from evils of their own creating.

John. What interpreter was this, sir?

Un. The historian does not give his name. "I write this," he says, "to give an account of what I have observed among the Indians, in relation to their belief and confidence in a Divine Being." He says that he was sent by the governor of Virginia to Onondaga, in the month of February; a journey of more than five hundred miles through a wilderness, where there was neither road nor path; at a season when the earth was covered with snow and "no creatures could be met with for food." He was accompanied by "a Dutchman and three Indians." They arrived at a narrow valley encompassed with high mountains "on which the snow lay three feet deep. In this pass ran a stream so rapid as to be unfrozen, and in places extending from one side of the gorge to the other, obliging the travellers to climb on the steep sides of the mountain to avoid wading in the water. They were forced to cut through the frozen surface of the snow to make holes for their feet that they might not slip down the mountain. "Thus," he says, "we crept on. It happened that the old Indian's foot slipped, and the root of a tree by which he held, breaking, he slipped down the mountain as from the roof of a house; but happily was stopped in his fall, by the string which fastened his pack, hitching to the stump of a small tree. The two Indians could not come to his aid, but our Dutch fellow-traveller did; and that not *without* visible danger to his own life."

Wm. So the brave Dutchman saved him!

Un. He rescued him from his perilous situation

and they all descended into the valley; then they saw that if the Indian had slipped four or five paces further, he would have fell over a rock one hundred feet perpendicular upon craggy pieces of rock below." When the Indian saw the extent of the danger from which he had been saved by the string of his pack hitching over a small piece of a projecting stump, and that *there* he had been suspended on the brink of an awful eternity, "he turned quite pale," says the narrator, "and, stretching out his arms, said with great earnestness, 'I thank the great Lord and Governor of this world, in that he has had mercy upon me, and has been willing that I should live longer.'"

Phil. I like that Indian, and that story, Uncle.

Un. Let us remember it, boy. And remember to be thankful every hour of our lives: for we are thus suspended, though not so obviously, every moment that we live. To-morrow, "if the great Lord and Governor of this world" is willing, we will go on with our history.

CHAPTER XVII.

John. Will you please to tell us something more of New Jersey, sir?

Un. Willingly; and I have a New Jersey tale of robbers and counterfeiters to tell you.

John. Was Sir George Carteret the first governor?

Un. Sir George Carteret did not come to America, but sent his brother Philip, to govern; for it appears that the proprietors held the right of appointing governors. So in 1681, for the first time in West Jersey, a form of government was regularly

established. The governor agreed with the people that there should be a free assembly chosen by them, once a year, to make laws for the good government of the province. The governor *not* to have the power of annulling these laws, and *not* to make war or raise troops without the consent of the assembly. In fact the whole power was reserved by the people to themselves, and they proclaimed perfect "liberty of conscience" in matters of religion. It was to East Jersey that Sir George Carteret had appointed his brother Philip as governor, and you remember that Sir Edmund Andros, the Duke of York's governor of New York, had him seized at Elizabethtown and brought to New York as a prisoner, charging him with usurping his authority. Carteret, however, could show as good title as Andros, and the affair was soon settled. Philip Carteret remained governor until 1681. In the mean time Sir George died, and ordered the province to be sold to pay his debts. William Penn and eleven others bought it; and soon after sold out half to twelve others, and to these twenty-four the duke renewed the grant with power to appoint a governor and other officers. Accordingly the proprietors appointed Robert Barclay, (the author of the Apology for Quakerism which you will one day read,) governor for life. He did not continue to rule as long as he lived, for in two years from his appointment, that is, in 1683, Lord Neil Campbell, uncle to the Duke of Argyle, came over as governor, and in 1698, Sir Thomas Lane was governor of East Jersey.

John. It would appear, sir, that the government of *East* Jersey, was not so democratick as that of *West.*

Un. You are right; for in West Jersey the people *not only* chose the assembly, but the assembly (the *people's* representative) chose the governor and

council. Their first choice was Samuel Jennings, (in 1683,) and next year Thomas Olive. This power appears to have been exercised by the people during a dispute between them and the proprietors, which being adjusted, they agreed to the *appointment* of John Skeine as governor. Dr. Cox, having purchased a great many shares of the property, was appointed governor next; but appears to have been so anxious that the people should be satisfied, that he consulted with them, to know whether they wished to have a share in the choice of governor and council, and on other matters, in the spirit of true benevolence. In a few years the contending interests of the proprietors threw the government of both Jerseys into confusion. In 1692, the proprietors of West Jersey appointed Andrew Hamilton *their* governor, and subsequently governor of *both East and West Jersey;* but in 1701 appeared Jeremiah Bass with a commission from part of the proprietors, said to be approved by the king, and he superseded Hamilton; this commission was soon after disputed, and Hamilton again seated in the chair of government: but these disputes ended in an agreement of the proprietors of both Jerseys, East and West, to surrender their right of government, in 1702, to Queen Ann; and she, in council, on the 17th day of April, 1702, did accept the same, and appointed her cousin, Edward Hyde, Lord Cornbury, governor over both parts, declaring them to be one province.

Wm. Why this is the same fellow that was governor of New York, and would not pay his debts because he was a lord, and a queen's cousin, and a governor: but when the government was taken from him his creditors in New York threw him into jail, and so got their money.

Un. Yes. He was governor of both provinces *at the same time*; and it was in consequence of th

representations of New Jersey that he was superseded. You will some day read in Mr. Samuel Smith's History, the instructions given him by Queen Ann, for his rule over both colonies: among other things he is enjoined to permit "liberty of conscience to all persons, (except Papists.)" Cornbury came to New Jersey in 1703, and his conduct was such that in 1707 the assembly remonstrated with him and stated their grievances, at the same time that they petitioned the queen for his removal. There were at this time bold and able men who advocated the rights of the people, and among them Mr. Lewis Morris was conspicuous. He owned iron works in Shrewsbury, and came originally from Barbadoes. Cornbury, in his answer to the assembly, imputes their dissatisfaction principally to Morris, and is very intemperate; he takes the opportunity to abuse the Quakers, as people pretending to be Christians, and denying their Saviour. In their rejoinder the assembly take a tone as high as the governor's: they tell him his favourites are the pests of the country; that he does not obey the queen's instructions in regard to liberty of conscience, and many other matters: that when residing (as he does the greater part of the time) at *Fort Ann*, in New York, there is no deputy in New Jersey to do justice. In short, they accuse him of every species of mal-administration. Lord Lovelace succeeded Cornbury in 1708, but died in a short time, and was succeeded by Ingoldsby, the lieutenant-governor, who ruled until the arrival of Governor Hunter, in 1710. The enumeration of governors for New York are those for New Jersey at this time. Burnet succeeded Hunter in 1720; Montgomerie followed; and dur*ing his* administration New Jersey applied to Eng*land for* a distinct governor from New York. Cosby *the next* governor of both provinces, promised th

people to second their views in respect to having a governor to themselves.

John. We have seen that there was not much reliance to be placed upon him. Where was the seat of government of New Jersey, sir?

Un. First at Burlington, and subsequently the governors resided and the assemblies met, alternately there and at Perth Amboy.

John. That's a very pleasant place, sir; a beautiful situation for a city. What was the origin of the town, and of the name?

Un. I will tell you something of both; and the more willingly, as the story I promised of the robbers and counterfeiters of money, is immediately connected with the place. The name of the point upon which Perth Amboy stands, (having the Raritan river on one side and the waters dividing the town from Staten island on the other,) appears from the proprietor's books to have been originally "Ompoge," and to have been changed to Ompo, Ombo, Ambo, and finally to Amboy. Perth was added in compliment to James, Earl of Perth, one of the second set of proprietors, received as partners by William Penn and others, who purchased of Sir George Carteret's widow. The land on which this city is built was bought of the Indians, in the same honest way that Penn negotiated for his territory. The first deed on record relative to "Ompoge point" was given by the Indians to Augustine Herman, and it is dated the 26th of December, 1651. The bounds of the grant were as follows. Read the memorandum.

John. "From the mouth of the Raritan creek westerly unto a creek at the uppermost end of the great marsh called Mankackewahky—"

Un. Now called the Raritan great meadows.

John. "Which runs northwest into the country,

and then from the mouth of the Raritan creek aforesaid, northerly up along the river—"

Un. The sound between Perth Amboy and Staten Island.

John. "Along the river behind *States isle*, unto the creek Pechciese, namely, from the point called *Ompoge* unto Pechciese, the aforesaid creek."

Un. Now Elizabethtown point creek.

John. "And so up the said creek to the very head of it; and from thence direct westerly throwe the land until it meet with the aforesaid creek and meadow ground called Mankackewahky."

Un. I put this memorandum in your hands to show the manner in which these purchases were described. The whole of this territory was included in a larger grant made by other Indians to another person, and the conflicting claims caused a suit in chancery. It was found necessary to prohibit by law any purchases from the Indians unless sanctioned by the *proprietors;* that is, by those who held the grant from Berkely or Carteret. Finally this *Ompoge* point and the tract above mentioned was purchased by the twenty-four proprietors of East Jersey; and they laid out a town on the point, which was then called Ambo, and in compliment to the Earl of Perth, (one of the twenty-four,) they named it Perth *Ambo*, which was soon changed to Perth *Amboy*.

John. It seems strange to me, sir, that these plain republicans should have such a reverence for titled people.

Un. It is very difficult to get rid of old habits. This makes it so necessary that no habits but those which are *good*, should be acquired; and shows the *value* of *early* education. Europeans were habituated to paying undue respect to titled nobility; and the descendants of the English, and other na

tions, in this country, even to this day are slaves to the prejudice.

John. Not all, sir.

Un. Certainly not. And even at the time Perth Amboy was so called, there were many who knew the distinction between a nobleman of nature's forming and the titulary creation of a tyrant or of chance. Amboy was commenced on a plan drawn by Gawin Lawrie, a *proprietor*, and at one time the deputy-governor of the province. His scheme was adopted by the council, and the city was divided into one hundred and fifty lots, each of ten acres; the price to those who purchased before the 25th of December, 1682, was fixed as 15*l.* sterling, and one year after at 20*l.* Four acres were reserved for a market-square. It was in 1709 that Queen Ann permitted New Jersey to issue paper money, and although it used to be printed with the words "to counterfeit is death," many spurious bills were soon circulated. They were manufactured in Dublin, and agents sent hither with them. But the great band of robbers and counterfeiters, were detected and dispersed only a short time before the revolution, and during the rule of William Franklin.

John. There must have been many governors before him and after Cosby, who was the last you mentioned.

Un. Yes; they succeeded each other very rapidly, Morris, Belcher, Boone, and Josiah Hardy, pass before us like the figures that you have seen in the magick lantern; or the blossoms you see year by year on the Lombardy poplar trees in our streets, fading and falling without leaving a trace of gone behind them. And so flit away the rulers of the earth *elsewhere.* Josiah Hardy arrived in October, *1761, and was* succeeded by William Franklin, in *1763.* Franklin was the last of the king's [illegible]

ors; and was not removed until the events of the revolution displaced him. It was during his administration that the detection of the gang of robbers and counterfeiters took place, whose story I am to tell.

John. Were there any remarkable men in Perth Amboy in early days?

Un. Several. I will only mention Barclay, the apologist for Quakerism, and Doctor Lewis Johnston, an eminent physician and student of nature. He received his education at Leyden, and after returning home corresponded with Gronovius and other learned men of Europe. It deserves likewise to be remembered that a magazine was edited at this place as early as 1759, by Samuel Neville, an English gentleman who lived and died there.

Phil. Uncle, I have been waiting so long for the story!

John. Hush! If you have attended to what has been said you will understand the story better.

Un. In those days, that is, sixty or seventy years ago, some parts of New Jersey were as wild as the western wildernesses now are, with here and there a solitary farm-house and patch of pumpkins and Indian corn. In such a place lived an Englishman of the name of Ford. He was occasionally seen at Morristown, Elizabethtown, and even at Amboy and Burlington; he appeared as an honest thriving yeoman, but although the owner of a considerable portion of land, little of it was cultivated, and no one knew how Ford could appear so "well off," and do so little work. The tract he owned remained a wilderness, and several extensive swamps were situated on it, near which neither road nor path approached. His only companion was one of his countrymen named King, who was in appearance a hired labourer; but no fruits of his labour appeared. After a time Ford was missing altogether. King said he had

gone *home*, on the death of his father, to take possession of property that he inherited in consequence. "Then he will not come back, perhaps?" "Oh yes; he prefers this country, and will certainly return." He did return; and now I will tell you what he went to England for, and what he and King had been doing for a long time before.

Wm. I guess, he had been making counterfeit money.

Un. No. He came out at first as agent for the Dublin counterfeiters; but conceived a plan for making the bills on the spot. He had been successful in circulating the false bills, and purchased the land that he thought would suit his purpose. King was his confidential agent; and with the utmost secrecy they constructed a den, part cave and part house, in the depths of a swamp, to which neither ingress nor egress was known or could be effected, except by these two villains. Ford then went to London, made himself somewhat acquainted with engraving, and procured the types, ornamental cuts, portable printing presses, tools and moulds for coining, and all the materials he wanted for his secret abode and laboratory. He returned, and commenced his operations with the materials and the skill acquired in London. Accomplices were necessary for the distribution of his manufacture, and he had the art to seduce many of the farmers and respectable yeomen of the surrounding country into the practice of buying his spurious money and circulating it, and *that* without communicating the secret of his workshop or the hidden path that led thereto.

John. Is it possible, sir, that people enjoying reputation among the colonists could be so base as to aid *these men*?

Un. *This*, the most incredible part of the story, *is strictly true*; men having landed property, re

spectable connexions, wives and children, were seduced by the desire of possessing wealth without labour (that desire which ruins so many) to become the accomplices of two artful scoundrels in this nefarious traffick, so injurious to their country, and so dangerous as well as debasing to themselves. They continued their iniquitous trade for several years, and became bolder from success. But in 1773, another gang of confederated counterfeiters and coiners arrived from New England, and spread themselves in the towns and villages from Woodbridge to Middletown. Two of them, pretending to be silversmiths, set up business in Perth Amboy. The quantity of base coin and counterfeit bills excited the vigilance of government, and it is believed that this new set of confederated rogues led to the detection of Ford, King, and Company. In the mean time the publick being on their guard, the agents of Ford among the people ceased their operations, and as business had become dull in the way of passing off bills, he conceived the bold design of making up all deficiencies by robbing the treasury.

John. Did he succeed, sir?

Un. Yes. And for a long time was not even suspected of the robbery. The treasurer of the province, Stephen Skinner, esquire, lived in Perth Amboy, and the treasury was in his house; the money in bills was kept in an iron chest in the office. In 1768, the office was found to have been entered in the night, the iron chest opened, and upwards of 6000*l.* carried off. It was not till six years after, that the perpetrators were known to be Ford, King, Cooper, and three soldiers belonging to a regiment quartered in the barracks at the time of burglary. *In 1774,* Cooper being convicted of counterfeiting, *and under* sentence of death, confessed that he *assisted Ford* in accomplishing the robbery of the tre

sury, and received 300*l.* for his share. He said the plan was Ford's; that he procured the necessary information as to the situation of the chest, the manner in which the treasurer secured the key in his chamber, the mode of obtaining access to the chest, and if necessary to the treasurer's bed-room, and assigned to each the part he was to act in the business. They were to remove the chest if possible; if not, they were to break it open in the office; if that failed, they were determined to enter the bedchamber, murder the inmates and secure the key.

John. And was Ford hanged for this robbery, sir?

Un. No. Long before the confession was made, several of the counterfeiters had been apprehended, and one who had been intrusted with the secret of the hidden path to the den of the coiners and counterfeiters, betrayed the secret. The officers of justice were led to the place, and entered the swamp by a passage that only admitted one man at a time, and that by creeping for some distance in a posture that rendered him helpless. But Ford and King were taken by surprise, detected at their dark work, and surrounded by the evidences of their guilt.

John. Then I suppose, sir, they were hanged for counterfeiting.

Un. You shall hear. Their detection led to the discovery of their accomplices, the agents concerned in the circulation of the base coin and forged bills.

John. What, sir, the farmers and reputable people of the country?

Un. Even so. And you may judge of the consternation of the publick, and the wretchedness of the wives, the parents, and other relatives, of these deluded men, when five or six highly respectable freeholders, (among them a physician, and a justice of the peace,) were apprehended, imprisoned, tried, and convicted of the crime of passing false money, design

edly and in concert with the vilest rogues. During their trials the country was in a state of agitation beyond description. The prison and the court of justice were thronged with their friends and their wretched fathers, mothers, wives, and children. Some of these unhappy men had seen their errour and ceased from the practice long before. One of them was so respected by the congregation to which he belonged that they had elected him a deacon; and upon his being accused and imprisoned, the clergyman of the parish publickly prayed "that he might be delivered from false accusers;" and a report having been spread that the accused was released, thanks were returned in the church. But they soon knew that he had confessed his guilt. These unhappy criminals were all sentenced to be executed. Think of six fathers of families, hitherto respected, being doomed as felons to the gallows.

John. Dreadful!

Un. In the mean time Ford and King, the arch villains, being both confined in Morristown prison, contrived, by the aid of one of their accomplices who was still at liberty, to break jail and escape; and notwithstanding proclamations of reward and the most active pursuit, they were never taken; while Richardson, the fellow who assisted them, was apprehended, convicted, and hanged. Another of the coiners suffered death; but the miserable misled men who had been seduced to be accomplices, by aiding in the circulating of the forged bills, were first respited, and finally pardoned.

Wm. O, I am glad of it! I think they would never do so again.

Un. It is probable that they truly repented. Surely they suffered even more than the mere agony of death. And it is more than probable that the two ringleaders in mischief, only fled from justice, to

this time, to experience misery, and a violent end, after a life of shame, and unceasing fear of retributive justice. To-morrow, when we meet I will bring our story down to the famous year, 1775.

CHAPTER XVIII.

John. You have told us, sir, something of the introduction of printing into our country, but there is another art of which you say nothing.

Un. What do you mean?

John. Painting.

Wm. We all know that America has produced a great many fine painters.

John. What artist had we first, sir?

Un. In point of time, a man little known. Mr. John Watson, a Scotch gentleman, who settled at Perth Amboy. He came to this country as early as 1715. In Dunlap's History of the Arts of Design in America, you will find all that is known of the painters who first visited this country; but as connected with our subject, I will mention some of them, and say a few words of the earliest native painters. In 1728, a great and good man, Dean Berkeley, came to America with the benevolent view of promoting literature, arts, and sciences: and knowing the happy influence of the fine arts upon society, he brought with him Mr. John Smybert, an artist of considerable knowledge and skill. He lived and died in Boston. Other European painters followed; but the first American painter in point of time and excellence is Benjamin West.

Wm. He painted the Death of Wolfe. I have seen it.

Un. You have seen the print engraved from it.

John. And you took me to see his great picture of Christ Rejected. Did he ever paint in New York?

Un. Yes. He was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania. His early attempts attracted attention and encouragement, and almost without teaching he became a painter. As early as 1759 he visited New York and painted several portraits: being the first native American artist who exercised his pencil in our city. The second was John Singleton Copley. He painted many excellent portraits in New York in the year 1773.

John. Better than West's, sir?

Un. Much better. At the time he painted in New York he had practised the art ten or more years with great success and industry, in Boston. West, when he was here, was a youth, and a tyro; Copley a well-studied painter of mature age. Both these great artists found employment and a home in England, and both died there.

John. Pennsylvania produced West, and Massachusetts gave us Copley; did no one distinguished artist spring up in our city?

Un. None in early times. Rhode Island, too, can boast of her Gilbert Stuart of the days before the revolution: but New York was without a native painter for many years after. The beautiful picture of the Studious Boy, which I have given you, with a little book intended for your instruction, proves that, though late, our state is not last in the race. William Sidney Mount, the painter of that truly fine picture, is yet a young man, and has produced compositions of still more masterly achievement since painting the Studious Boy. The engraving, which is the fron

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ispiece of the little book I gave you, is a masterpiece in that branch of art, by Mr. J. A. Adams, whose talents do honour to the country, and of whom we boast as a native. In the work on Artists abovementioned, you will find more concerning Mr. William Sidney Mount. I will only mention that he was born at Satauket on Long Island, in the year 1807, and until the age of seventeen was employed, to use his own words, "as a farmer's boy." You know that the word farmer in our country has a different signification from that it bears in England. An American farmer, is the cultivator of his own soil, a free and independent yeoman. Such was the father of Mr. Mount. I shall take another opportunity to speak to you of the progress of the fine arts in our country; now I will only say that New York city can boast of another native artist of the first order in Mr. Robert W. Weir; and the state of two, no less in merit, Mr. Vanderlyn, and Mr. Inman. After our historic lesson to-day, we will walk to the honourable Gulian C. Verplanck's, and ask permission to look at Mr. Weir's fine painting of the Landing of Henry Hudson. I likewise show you this wood engraving by Mr. Mason, from a copy of Mr. Wier's picture, made by Mr. Brown, an artist recently arrived in our city. Though New York cannot boast of her painters or engravers in the early period of her existence, she can now vie with any city of America. And, when speaking of our native artists, we must not forget Doctor Anderson, who, although educated as a physician, preferred the profession of an engraver, and taught himself the art of embossing on wood, thereby becoming the first, in point of time, who practised wood-engraving in America. In excellent artists—painters, architects, *and engravers*, natives of New York, or from the *neighbouring states*, and from Europe—our city nor

abounds; but at the period of which our story treats, she was "poor indeed." Now we will return to the history of our city. And I must introduce you more particularly to Mr. James Rivington, an English gentleman who had for some years been a bookseller in New York, and who, as I told you, commenced publishing a weekly gazette, in the year 1773.

John. Was that the only newspaper in the city, sir?

Un. O, by no means. Through all the preceding controversies, papers had been published by Weyman, Parker, Loudon, Holt, Gaine, and occasionally by others; but at this period the three conspicuous editors were Holt, Rivington, and Gaine. The first a decided whig, the second a violent tory, and the third a time-server. By a whig, at this time, was understood an American "Son of Liberty," and by a tory an advocate of English pretensions. Rivington's paper was supported by men of talents; and his own paragraphs, with the essays of Cooper, Inglis, and others I have mentioned, gave it great currency with his party, and rendered him exceedingly obnoxious to the resentment of the American people generally. A riotous proceeding happened in March, 1775, of which Mr. Rivington published this account, which I have transcribed from his paper. Read it.

John. "Messrs. *Cunningham* and Hill coming from the North river stopped, near the liberty pole, to see a boxing match, when Cunningham was struck by one Smith Richards, James Vandyk, and several others, called tory, and used in the most cruel *manner* by a mob of above two hundred men. Hill *came to* the assistance of Cunningham, and was *beat and* abused most barbarously, though neither *of them gave the least* offence, except being on the

king's side of the question this morning." What does that mean, sir?

Un. I can only suppose that there had been some popular resolutions passed that day, and that Cunningham and Hill had opposed them. Read on. Cunningham was the tory bully.

John. "The leaders of the mob brought Cunningham to the liberty pole, and told him to go down on his knees and damn his popish King George, and they would set him free; but on the contrary he exclaimed "God bless King George!" They then tore the clothes off his back, and robbed him of his watch. Hill was requested to damn the king, and refusing, was served in the same manner. They were rescued by some peace officers and taken to jail for safety."

Wm. Do you believe this story, sir?

Un. Not as here related. But at this time the feelings of the two parties were extremely hostile. The people of New York felt the injuries and insults inflicted on the country generally, and particularly on their brethren of Boston, where already an army of king's troops had been collected to overawe that spirit which Massachusetts displayed. I presume that on this day the people of New York had been assembled in "the fields" near the liberty pole, and had been irritated by the opposition of the tories. This outrage took place afterward, and unfortunately at such assemblies many add the fuel of strong liquor to the fire of patriotism. Cunningham and Hill, as it appears, were known to be tories; they returned to the place of meeting, and, it cannot be doubted, gave offence by some insult to the people, or to the emblem of liberty, which had become so dear to them. This does not justify the *personal violence* used; but accounts for it. I should *not dwell on this* riotous incident so long, but that

believe it immediately connected with events of greater consequence, and that it added to the sufferings of many Americans, who never heard of it. Americans, who, in the course of the war, when captured by the British, were committed to the charge of this bully and blackguard; who, as a reward for his sufferings when the champion of royalty, was appointed *provost marshal*, and avenged his disgrace and bruises on the innocent and powerless. Cunningham had this office conferred on him by the English commander-in-chief. As you have had Rivington's account of this affray, I will give you another. In an essay respecting the "old jail," or "provost," published in the New York Mirror, our fellow-citizen Mr. John Pintard gives the following account of this affair. Read it.

John. "This modern Bastile was memorable during the occupation of the city by the British forces from 1776 to 1783, as the provost, under the superintendence of the noted Captain Cunningham, provost marshal, and his deputy, Sergeant Keefe. The former lived in New York previous to 1776, and during the conflicts between the whigs and tories, the 'liberty boys' and the 'loyalists,' was the bully and champion of the latter in the many battles fought in 'the fields,' now the park; in the front of which and near the present Bridewell, the whigs set up their liberty poles, which were successively demolished by the tories, until one was erected so completely cased with iron bars and hoops as to set all attacks at defiance; and which remained, it is believed, until the British took possession of the city on the 15th of October, ('September') 1776. *On one* occasion Cunningham, a stout, double-fisted *Irishman*, after a bloody scuffle, was compelled by *the 'liberty boys'* to kneel down and kiss the *liberty pole*; an indignity that rankled in his heart,

and was afterward avenged with unrelenting severity on the American prisoners; when, as a reward for his loyalty, he was *dignified* with the post of provost marshal. A more cruel tyrant could not be found, except in his deputy, Sergeant Keefe, who was one of the most cold-blooded monsters that ever existed." I suppose, sir, this may be depended upon.

Un. Mr. Pintard, in his youth, had an opportunity of personally knowing these men, and in his old age he wrote and published this character of them.

John. What do you mean by provost marshal?

Un. The jail was called "the provest," and the keeper was "Provost Cunningham." His cruelties to American prisoners are proverbial, and he was so conscious of the enmity his conduct had produced, that he made an application to Sir Henry Clinton, and was commissioned as a captain of his majesty's army, to protect him, in case he should be kidnapped or otherwise made prisoner by the Americans. I believe that the office of provost marshal and commission of captain, were rewards for his adherence to the king of his native country. I shall again mention this man and his treatment of American prisoners.

John. I have heard of this man, sir.

Wm. But, Uncle, had not the war begun in Boston?

Un. Not quite. I must refer you to books for the transactions *there*, only mentioning those which are necessary to be known, as accounting for what took place in New York. What was called the Boston Massacre, (an unhappy affair in which the soldiers fired on, and killed, some of the inhabitants,) was annually brought to mind by an oration; and about this time, Mr. Rivington endeavoured to *turn the people* and the orator, the celebrated Doctor *Warren, into* ridicule. The meeting took pla

in the "Old South" on the 5th of March, and the writer represents the Adamses, Hancock, Cooper, and others waiting in the church for Warren; who arrives at "last in a single horse chaise at the apothecary's opposite the meeting, and entering the shop, is followed by a servant with a bundle in which were the Ciceronian Toga, &c." Having robed himself at the apothecary's, he is described by Rivington as proceeding "across the street" to the *Old South*, where he is received, conducted to the pulpit, and announced "by one of the fraternity," as the orator of the day. He goes on to represent him as "applauded by the mob, but groaned at by people of understanding." Adams is represented as getting up and proposing "the nomination of another, to speak next year, on the *Bloody Massacre*, when some *officers* cried 'Fy! Fy!' which being mistaken for a cry of 'fire!' put the whole mob to rout." But it is added, "The 43d regiment, returning *accidentally* from exercise with drums beating, threw the whole body into the utmost consternation." This and similar passages procured to Mr. Rivington a singular honour, at this time, and the destruction of his types, a year after.

John. Procured him *honour*, did you say, sir?

Un. Yes. For on the 8th of March, 1775, in committee chamber, it was ordered "that Philip Livingston and John Jay be a committee to wait on Mr. James Rivington, and request of him to acquaint this committee by whose information or by what authority he published the following paragraph in his gazette: 'Last Monday the committee of observation met; it was proposed that they should nominate delegates to the continental congress for the approbation of the city and county, but being opposed, the final determination of the committee was postponed until their next meeting.' The same paragraph

being entirely and wholly false and groundless. And also to inform Mr. Rivington that in printing the notice of the committee of the 27th of February, 1775, respecting the non-consumption of India tea being then soon to take place, it was inserted, *non*-importation, in capitals, instead of non-consumption, and desire him to correct the mistake in his next paper." Messrs. Livingston and Jay reported that Rivington said, in answer, that he printed from *common report;* that he would be more careful in future, and that he had corrected the last *mistake.* The committee of observation resolved, that *common report* was not sufficient authority for misrepresenting them; that their sittings were open, and the truth forthcoming. Rivington was bold in the support of the tories, and he replied—that the committee assumed legislative authority; and signed his name to the reply, with the addition, "a persecuted printer."

John. Was the general assembly of New York in session, sir?

Un. Yes. And I am sorry to say that the majority, at this time, was wavering, tame, and unpatriotick. In fact they did not respond to the call of the colonies or of the people they represented. When the brave Colonel Woodhull of Long Island, whose name ought ever to be held in honour by us of New York, moved that "the thanks of the house be given to the representatives of the province for their services in the continental congress the previous September," it was denied; the house being divided fifteen to nine.

John. I shall not forget the name of the delegates from our city, Livingston, Jay, and Duane. Who was it, sir, that would not thank the men who had *done New York* honour?

Un. We will forget their names. But here is

memorandum of the minority. Read it; and remember *their* names with gratitude.

John. "George Clinton, Col. Woodhull, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Boerum, Capt. Seaman, of Long Island, Col. Ten Broeck, Mr. De Witt, Col. Philip Schuyler, and Col. Philip Livingston. This minority moved for thanks to the merchants and inhabitants of New York for their firm and faithful conduct in adhering to the association recommended by the congress of 1774; and that the sense of the house be taken on appointing delegates to the next continental congress; but both these motions were overruled by the timid, or tory majority. Colonel Schuyler, however, by his eloquence, carried resolutions, declaring a number of the acts of parliament to be grievances, and particularly those which were aimed to punish and oppress the province of Massachusetts. In manuscript notes before me, communicated by Chancellor Kent, he says, 'the leading patriots of the day were Col. Schuyler, Col. Woodhull, and Mr. Clinton.' But the tory (or timid) majority carried several resolutions, declaring that the people of the colony owe obedience to the king of Great Britain; that they owe obedience to all acts of parliament calculated for the general weal of the empire; but asserting that they were entitled to the same rights as the other subjects of Great Britain, and could only be taxed by their representatives. On the 24th March, 1775, on debating the form of an address to the king, Col. Schuyler, Col. Woodhull, and Mr. De Witt, moved sundry amendments, but were overruled by the majority. Chancellor Kent, in the manuscript above alluded to, says, 'The addresses *to the King*, the *House of Lords*, and the House of Commons, by the *general* assembly, passed March 25, 1775, were *tame, ridiculous*, and very loyal'; but they asserted

the rights and stated the grievances contained in the above resolutions.' That is, the resolutions previously carried. He adds, 'The assembly adjourned on the 3d of April, and I believe never met again.'"

Phil. Brother, I hope you are done reading.

Un. Ah, my little boy, you want to hear of the conflicts which followed this war of words. I must now mention some of the events which took place at a distance from New York, that we may understand our story the better.

John. But, sir, you say that the assembly never met again.

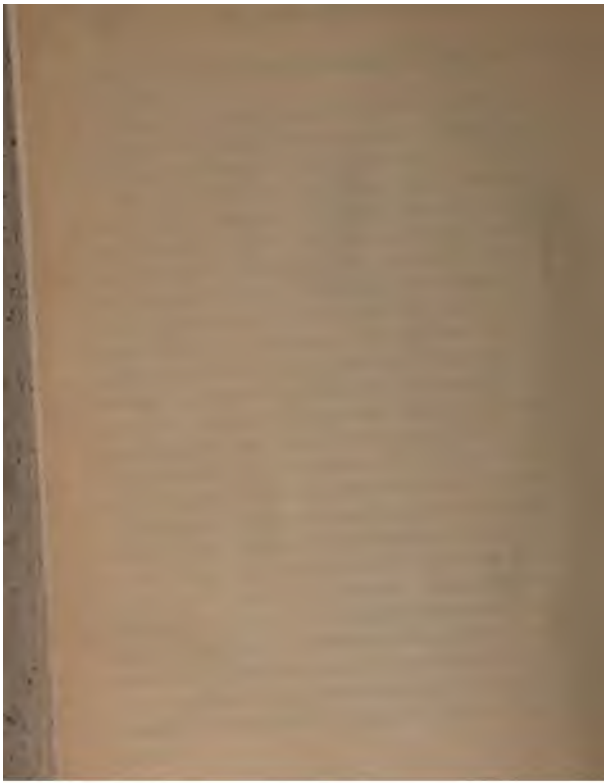
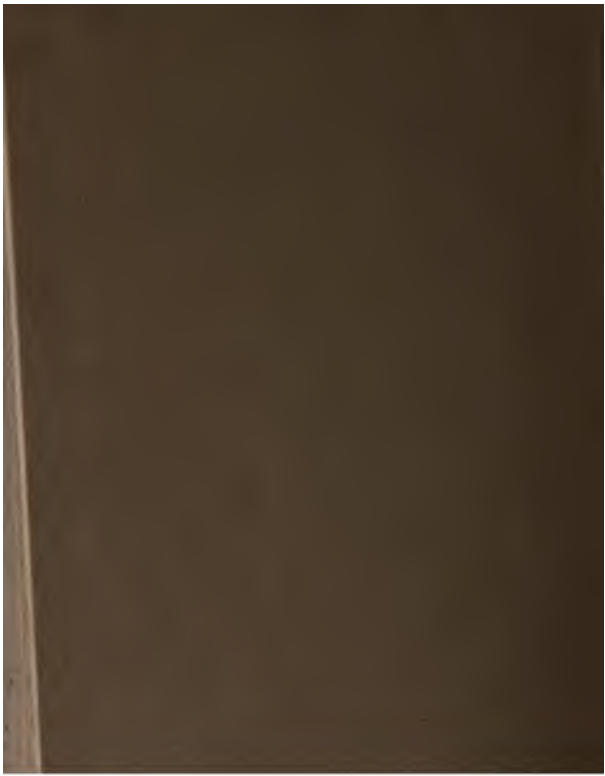
Un. Never as dependant upon a foreign nation. But as the representatives of a free and sovereign state, with the patriot George Clinton as its governor; and Philip Schuyler a leader of its army, I am sorry to add, not until the brave Colonel Woodhull had been murdered, when a prisoner, by the soldiers of an invading army. Shortly after the dissolution of the provincial assembly of New York, on the 19th of April, hostilities commenced, and the British troops were driven by the despised provincials from Concord and Lexington into the town of Boston, where their assembled forces were cooped up; and on the 17th of June was fought the battle of Bunker's hill, ever famous in the annals of America.

Wm. Do, sir, tell us all about *that!*

Un. The blood shed at Lexington was the signal for thousands to seize their muskets, and the leading spirits, as if by concert, flew to those points at which they could annoy the enemy or best protect the country. An army was raised in New Hampshire and Massachusetts to invest Boston. Connecticut was not backward in sending her sons to the same point. And several bold fellows pushed towards Lake Cham-

plain, knowing the importance of the posts on that quarter.

Wm. But, Uncle, we have come to the time when the brave General Warren commanded, fought, conquered, and died, at Bunker's hill.

Un. Dr. Warren, a distinguished patriot, fought and died at that place; he had been appointed a general the day before, but was not commissioned, had no command, and acted as a private volunteer under the veteran Colonel Prescott, who was the provincial commander on that glorious day. The supposition that Dr. Warren (a great man and true patriot) was the leader in this first trial of the supposed invincibility of English regular soldiers when opposed to provincials, is not the only misapprehension which has been incorporated with the story of the battle of Bunker hill. But before we go into the details of that transaction, so important in its effects upon the future events of the war then so seriously commenced, let us take our usual walk, and reflect upon the moral duty which we owe our fellow-men. Let us remember that while we strive not to forget any of the occurrences of past times, it is our duty, and a source of happiness to ourselves, sincerely to forgive the authors of the injuries which were inflicted upon our country in a struggle which resulted in the acknowledged right of self-government.

END OF VOLUME ONE.